



Digitized by the Internet Archive
in 2011 with funding from
Boston Public Library

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume I, No. 1

October 15, 1921

CONTENTS

CONTRIBUTED ARTICLES:

GREETINGS	1
SWAMPSCOTT CONFERENCE OF THE A. L. A.	2
DANTE EXHIBITION	3
NUMISMATIC MEETING	4
BODLEY'S LIBRARIAN AT HARVARD	4
"THE GREAT DICTIONARY DRIVE"	5
MRS. GODDARD	5

EDITORIALS	6
JOHN GRANT MOULTON	7
DEPARTMENTS AND BRANCHES	8
WITH THE JUNIORS	10
OUR NEIGHBOR LIBRARIES	11
ANNOUNCEMENTS	12

SUPPLEMENT

NEWS NOTES ON GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, No. 18	*I-4
---	------

NOTE.—The editors are glad to be able to prefix to this first issue the following words of greeting from the President of the Board of Trustees and from the Librarian, to whose interest the inception of the paper is due.

GREETINGS.

I have learned with interest that it is proposed to publish a little monthly entitled "Library Life," which is to circulate among the members of the Library staff, and serve as a means of communication between the Central Library and the various Branches. Such a publication will, I believe, bring all library workers closer together, and so foster a greater *esprit de corps* and a stronger loyalty to the great institution.

"Library Life" has my heartiest good wishes for its success.

ALEXANDER MANN.

Ever since my association with the Library in 1917 I have felt the need of a staff bulletin as a factor in promoting the best Library service. Until the present, however, neither the times nor circumstances have conspired to make possible a publication which will bring to the notice of all the employees of the Library matters of common and current interest within and without the system. Such a paper, issued at regular periods, should do much to increase our enthusiasm for our chosen profession and to broaden our knowledge of the institution we have the honor to serve. Under careful guidance the publication will attain a long and successful career. Welcome to "Library Life."

CHARLES F. D. BELDEN.

THE SWAMPSCOTT CONFERENCE OF THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

During the last week in June the American Library Association, for the second time since the year 1900, held its annual conference in Massachusetts.

The meeting place was ideal and justified the expectations of those who selected it. The New Ocean House at Swampscott, fronting directly on the ocean, is near neighbor to the sandy curve of Fisherman's Beach, dotted off shore by the boats of the fishing fleet, and more distant neighbor to the long sweep of Lynn Beach and the bold rocks of Nahant. By night the twinkling lights of Egg Rock and the Graves add the gleams of romance, which, to inland dwellers, always radiate from a lighthouse.

Those of us who traveled from town found the broad piazzas pleasant places for talk and rest, while the guests within the house were cordial in their expression of satisfaction with the hotel management.

General sessions were held in the huge concrete garage, through which at times the breezes swept and at other times the mosquitoes. Section meetings occupied the different parlors of the hotel.

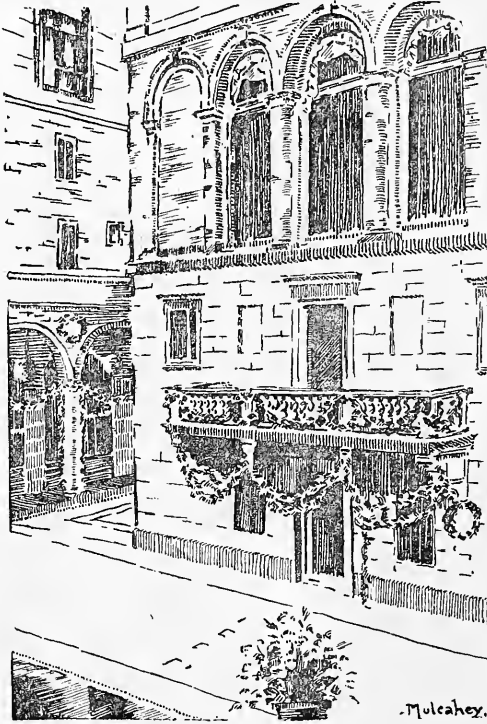
A record attendance marked the conference. Advance registration was large, and the number of those actually present even larger, 1900 in all.

On arrival at Swampscott, the visitors were met by members of a hospitality committee, and on registration each one was presented with an envelope containing guides, maps, and descriptive leaflets, as well as current publications of libraries in greater Boston.

This Library may be allowed a feeling of institutional pride in remembering that Mr. Belden was chairman of the local committee on arrangements, and that the machinery for handling this great gathering, the largest library convention ever held, was perfected under his direction. That it bore one test of all good machinery, not obtruding itself, but remaining in the background, proved the efficiency of the organization. Various sub-committees gave unsparingly of time and energy to insure the smooth

execution of countless details concerned with the transportation, housing, comfort and entertainment of so many strangers.

It almost goes without saying that there have never before been so many of the staff of the Boston Public Library at an A. L. A. convention. The advance list contains the names of 139 who planned to be at Swampscott for one or more meetings. We were represented on the programme, too. Dr. Mann, the President of the Board, spoke on the "Function of the Library Trustee," at a meeting of the Trustees' Section, Mr. Belden read a paper on "Co-operation between Public and



Special Libraries," and Miss Agnes Doyle discussed the "Necessity for a Coöperative Index of Coats of Arms."

Formal reports of papers and discussions will appear in the published proceedings of the conference, where we can all read them. Much practical value lay also in the informal talk between people interested in the same things, in the exchange of ideas, and in the contact with library workers from many different places. After one has attended several conferences the widening circle of acquaintances becomes a source of added pleasure.

To balance the business side of a convention some recreation in the form of excursions is needed, and this year we were offered a tempting array of opportunities to visit points of historic interest in good library company. Mr. Chase had this matter in hand and exhibited to a high degree the qualities of a skilled guide. Indeed, he was so successful in carrying out schedules and marshalling his parties on the Lexington-Concord and Plymouth trips that a post-conference visitor gasped in amazement on finding him at the Reference Desk in Bates Hall. "I thought he was a professional travel-director," she confessed.

No event of the whole week aroused more enthusiasm than the reception in our own Library, given jointly by the State Library Commissioners and the Trustees of the Library; it was an occasion to which we may look back in the complete satisfaction that it could not have been more perfect. After weeks of unclouded sunshine it was easy to be apprehensive of a possible change which would have wrecked everything, but Massachusetts was on her best behavior and the evening was exactly right.

We who saw our courtyard that Thursday evening will never forget the impression made by the beauty of its dignified decoration, the ropes of laurel simply looped between the great pillars, the soft light of the lanterns which hung beneath the colonnade. The visiting librarians to the number of 1200 thronged the court, seated on the cherished grass, on the balconies

and in the arcade. As daylight faded into moonlight more than one person alluded to a scene from the Arabian Nights.

A programme of rich literary and musical interest was provided. The Governor, the Mayor, and Dr. Mann all spoke in welcoming vein, and these were followed by the poets, Robert Frost and Josephine Preston Peabody (Marks), and Joseph Lincoln, the story-teller of Cape Cod. Excellent music was provided by the Footlight Orchestra, conducted by Mr. Charles Fonteyn Manney, and the Harvard Alumni Chorus, under the direction of Mr. Malcolm Lang, gave delight by their singing. The printed programme distributed to those in attendance is an example of the work of our Printing Department and contains also a photogravure of the colonnade from a photograph by a member of the staff.

The enjoyment of our guests was expressed in terms of unqualified praise both then and thereafter. One lady voiced her feelings in verse which you may some day see in print. Repeatedly we heard it said that never had the A. L. A. been tendered a reception to compare with this. Perhaps the warmest measure of approval was given by a librarian from the Middle West, who declared, "I think there ought not to be another Convention for two years, for no matter where it is held, no other city in the country can equal what Boston has done for us."

A. M. J.

THE DANTE EXHIBITION.

It was fitting that during the greater part of the past year the exhibition room of the Central Library should have been devoted to the Pilgrim Tercentenary. Even the most ardent devotee of modernity must willingly admit the propriety of such an exhibition in the capital of Massachusetts and in the library which houses the Prince Collection.

To the public of to-day the municipal library no longer represents a storehouse of bibliographic rarities and antique erudition, it has become

an agency for bringing readers of every class into immediate contact with everything that is vital here and now. What, then, is the significance for the present day of an exhibition commemorating the six-hundredth anniversary of the death of a foreign poet and scholar?

This question finds its best answer in the exhibition itself. The library's Danteana do not form a special collection and cannot show any considerable number of very old or rare items. The larger and more interesting portion of the exhibition consists of modern editions, commentaries and illustrations of Dante produced in the last quarter-century. The number, elaboration and costliness of these works bear eloquent testimony to the immense modern interest in the great Florentine. And when it is remembered that the publications displayed constitute but a small fraction of those in the possession of the Library and an almost infinitesimal part of what has been published during the past century, the tremendous significance of the poet's accomplishment must be evident to everyone.

In selecting the items for display, the object has been to bring together many different phases and types of Dante literature and illustration in several periods, rather than to crowd the cases with all the available older editions, translations and commentaries. The exhibition is thus educational rather than bibliographical. To further this aim, most of the books are accompanied by brief explanatory notices, composed not for Dante scholars but for the general public.

A short appreciation of the poet and a fuller account of the exhibition will be found in the introduction to the Dante List, just published; it has also been issued as a special leaflet for distribution.

W. H. C.

THE NUMISMATIC MEETING.

At the invitation of the Boston Numismatic Society, the American Numismatic Association came to Boston this summer, and held its annual

convention from Aug. 20 to 25. There was an attendance of about a hundred, some of the members coming from as far west as Iowa. Visits, which for most were reverent pilgrimages, were made to Bunker Hill, Lexington, Concord, and Plymouth; there was a banquet at the Copley Plaza Hotel, a musical entertainment at the Faelten School, and a reception at the rooms of the Massachusetts Historical Society. Business sessions and a notable exhibition of Colonial and later paper money, and of ancient, mediaeval and modern coins, were held in the Lecture Hall of the Public Library, by the courtesy of the Librarian and Trustees, and were of much interest to the public. The Library's great numismatic treasure, the gold medal voted to Washington by the Continental Congress in 1776, to commemorate the evacuation of Boston, was exhibited to the convention by Mr. Wheeler.

The Association has about 700 members, American and foreign. It was founded in 1871 and incorporated by Congress in 1912. The Boston Numismatic Society has a membership of over forty.

H. L. W.

BODLEY'S LIBRARIAN AT HARVARD.

An illustrated lecture on "The Bodleian Library" was given October 3, by Dr. Arthur E. Cowley, Fellow of Magdalen College, Oxford, and Bodley's Librarian, in the lecture room of the Fogg Art Museum, Cambridge. The speaker was introduced by his host, Dr. Kirsopp Lake, Professor of Early Christian Literature at Harvard. Dr. Cowley said that he was the first Bodley's Librarian who had strayed so far; that he came not to talk but to learn. The views illustrated the library from the earliest times, showing the Quadrangle, the Radcliffe "Camera," the Picture Gallery, Bodley's bust, the clock given by Sir William Osler, and "the study less than six feet square, where the librarian was shut up and expected to study."

Dr. Cowley is carrying on the modernizing activities of his immediate predecessors. Nicholson (1882-1912) adopted a classification similar to that of Dewey, developed the foreign purchases and exchanges, and made the books more accessible. Falconer Madan (1912-1919) was before all a great bibliographer. His successor has extended the principle of copyright by which the library receives copies of every book copyrighted in the United Kingdom. The catalogue, till 1919, consisted of written slips pasted in folios, showing a great many titles at once. Since 1920, the slips have been printed, so that a larger number are visible at a glance. The problem of growth is to be met by departmental libraries in charge of experts, near the main library, the head of which is to be an administrator, whose function it will be to control the whole "and restrain the experts."

"The English method," the lecturer said, "is to take a scholar, make him a librarian, and then pray Heaven he may prove to be an administrator. And yet he is expected, all in one morning, to translate a Greek colophon or the inscription on a Chinese tea-tray, to know the date of everything that is going to happen, everybody's genealogy, the title of every book and its price, but never to read; to travel widely, but always to stay in his own place—when all that he is really thinking about is the price of mops." Card plans of the library were distributed, and the lecture was followed by a reception. Dr. Cowley plans to visit the principal American libraries.

L. E. T.

"THE GREAT DICTIONARY DRIVE."

Probably never before in the history of the Library has there been such a call for dictionaries and encyclopaedias as came this summer. Two of the Boston papers were conducting extended puzzle contests, and for several weeks it was impossible to find anything in the form of an English dictionary which was not in constant use.

Indeed, people were actually sitting about, more or less patiently waiting their turn at Webster or the Standard. Hundreds of persons learned for the first time how to make use of these works of reference.

The writer happened to be in Bates Hall on two Sunday afternoons when the rush came at two o'clock. By five minutes after the hour, every possible source of information had been seized upon and it is safe to say that nothing was free for normal use until closing time.

The prizes were few compared with the thousands who were striving for them, but every one must have derived from the contests a certain amount of benefit, from those who learned for the first time what Lenin's real name was to those who discovered that "gob" is now in perfectly good standing in at least one dictionary. But let us hope that if any paper starts anything of this sort again there may be some advance notice, in order that the bindery may be free to devote all its time to the repair of the books involved.

H. W. M.

MRS. GODDARD.

Mrs. Frances H. Goddard entered the Library service April 11, 1892, as assistant in the Ordering Department and, with the exception of two years, served continuously until June 22, 1921. Her work, which at first was the care of French orders and accessions, gradually grew to include the charge of assigning the books for the Branches and Stations, a constantly increasing responsibility. She welcomed work, and was never so happy as when confronted by hundreds of volumes to be assigned to their proper places.

In June of this year she felt that she could no longer carry on her work and resigned to take a needed rest. She sailed for England the 17th of September, intending to make a long stay abroad. Her departure was regretted by all who knew her, especially by the associates with whom she had worked so cheerfully and faithfully for many years.

T. E. M.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. I, No. 1.

Oct. 15, 1921

THE LIFE OF THE LIBRARY.

It may be true that "corporations have no souls"; but it is even more true that an institution like the Boston Public Library has a vigorous life of its own, and a real personality.

Life develops through expression. It will be the purpose of this paper to chronicle the life of the Library, and to stimulate the growth of its personality by giving it a voice.

The spirit of an institution is a composite, enriched by the personalities of all the individuals who have a part in its work. LIBRARY LIFE will be a composite autobiography, to which every member of the staff will be expected to contribute his share. It will be the duty of the editors from month to month to shape this continuous story into some sort of unity, that we may be able to trace the growth in the corporate life of which each one of us is a part.

The editorial board is greatly pleased with the interest shown by all the staff, and their readiness to submit contributions for the paper. As gauged by this barometer, the spirit of the Library is healthy and eager; everyone is ready to go forward. We already have in hand much excellent news material for the next issue, which was crowded out of this one. Keep on sending it in; the appetite of a newspaper is never satisfied.

One or two departments of the paper merit special mention. "With the Juniors," edited by Mr. Francis P. Znotas, is a recognition of the place in the life of the Library which that plucky sheet, *The Library Bugle*, won

for itself last spring. "The child is father of the man"; without the *Bugle* there might have been no LIBRARY LIFE.

"Our Neighbor Libraries" will be devoted, month by month, to the other institutions of the Boston district which help to make up the great group of which our own library is the centre. This family of libraries now has more than one hundred members, and is growing steadily; we ought to know more of our brothers and sisters. The department is inaugurated by a comprehensive article on the Special Libraries Association of Boston, written by its President, Mr. Ernest W. Chapin.

The familiar *News Notes on Government Publications*, the first staff paper published by the Library, now appears as a supplement to LIBRARY LIFE, under Miss Guerrier's editorship; the staff will not forget the debt which we owe to this pioneer for breaking the path which the new paper is to follow.

The programme of LIBRARY LIFE is a simple one: all the news that makes for a larger life. We are all proud of the Library; this paper will aim to increase our pride. We all want to help the Library; this paper will give us a chance. LIBRARY LIFE will seek to cultivate personality and to avoid personalities. It is your paper; the editors bespeak your co-operation.

Lindsay Swift is gone from among us. His forty-three years of service in the Library came to a sudden end on Sunday, September 11th. Few men connected with the Library have made a deeper impress on their associates; few have added so much distinction to the institution.

It is impossible to do justice to Mr. Swift's memory in this issue of LIBRARY LIFE; in the issue of November 15, we shall devote a considerable space to the story of his career and the tributes of those who knew him.

An admirable portrait of Mr. Swift, after the photograph by Miss Alice Austin, was published in the *Quarterly Bulletin* for Sept. 30. Any member of

the Staff who desires an additional copy of this portrait can obtain it on application at the Librarian's Office.

The pen-and-ink sketch of the courtyard, illustrating Miss Jordan's article, is the work of Miss Eleanor M. Mulcahey of the Special Libraries Department.

Read the excellent advice on "How to meet the public" on page *3 of the NEWS NOTES ON GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS; it is as good for librarians as for postal employees.

Eating together is one of the surest ways of developing fellowship. We hope that the invitation contained in the notice of the Special Libraries Association, on page 11, will be repeated; such an informal meeting at supper once a month would be a welcome innovation in the library life of Boston.

The article on the meeting of the American Numismatic Association was written by Mr. Horace L. Wheeler, of the Statistical Department of the Library, who is President of the Boston Numismatic Society. An excellent portrait of Mr. Wheeler was published in the *Boston Transcript*, Tuesday, August 23d.

There is a great deal of dramatic ability in the Library, some of it experienced, much of it as yet undeveloped. Every member of the staff who is—or even feels that he might possibly be—"stage-struck" should respond at once to Miss Hayes's call on page 12.

Misses Margaret H. Reid, Alice L. Murphy and Katharine F. Muldoon recently visited Miss Cora L. Stewart, for many years Librarian of the Tyler Street Reading Room, who is now at Westboro, and were pleased to find her much improved in health. As usual, Miss Stewart was greatly in-

terested in the affairs of the Library, and inquired about her friends, wishing to be remembered to all.

JOHN GRANT MOULTON,

1869-1921.

Mr. Moulton, for many years librarian at Haverhill, had many friends among the staff of the Boston Public Library. He will be specially remembered for his spirited and delightfully informal illustrated lecture on his camp library experiences in the Le Mans area, France, given before the Staff Club in April, 1920.

Mr. Moulton was born in Jamaica Plain, January 26, 1869, and was graduated from the Boston Latin School in 1888, and from Harvard College in 1892; he spent the next two years in fitting himself for his profession by study at the New York State Library School. He was successively librarian at Quincy, Illinois (1894-1898), and at Brockton (1898-1899), before entering upon the position to which he was to devote the remaining 22 years of his life. In Haverhill, where he succeeded Mr. Edward Capen, who was first librarian of the Boston Public Library, Mr. Moulton made the library an efficient centre of civic life, responsive to every need and interest of the community.

Though quiet and unobtrusive, he was a forceful leader in many fields of library work. He was successively secretary, vice-president, and president of the Massachusetts Library Club, and was largely responsible for its Bulletin; he helped to organize the Camp Devens library, and was later prominent in war library work, first in the South and then in France. He died July 7, 1921, after an illness of about a year.

An account of his life by his classmate, Dr. Harris P. Mosher, was printed in the *Haverhill Gazette*, July 28; it presents a sympathetic picture of the career of an able and devoted librarian, whom many of us are happy in having known.

F. H. C.

Departments and Branches

INFORMATION OFFICE.

The admirable collection of material on Vocational Training, installed in the Information Office a year ago, is soon to have a companion in the file of current material on the kindred and very timely subject of Unemployment, now being prepared by a group of Radcliffe College alumnae, under the direction of Miss Jean Birdsall.

The enterprise originated in the desire of the Radcliffe alumnae, organized in connection with the campaign for a college endowment fund, to use their training for a real piece of public service. They offered their assistance to the delegates to the Unemployment Conference, through Mayor Andrew J. Peters, of Boston; the Mayor was quick to see the possibilities in this offer from a group of women trained in research, and at once accepted it in a letter from which we quote the following paragraphs:—

Will your organization, working under the direction of a trained graduate who has done work in research, compile in the Information Department of the Boston Public Library an information file on unemployment and allied subjects? Among other topics, treat "Seasonal Employment," "Standardization of Product," and "The possibilities of making delivery continuous in spite of seasonal demand, by adjustment of prices."

The formation of such a file will prove the training that your college gives its graduates to be of very real worth to the community.

In organizing the file, care will be taken to digest and outline the experience gained, so that it will be possible to give assistance in the formation of similar files in other libraries. The purpose will of course be to supplement, rather than to duplicate, collections of material already available in other public collections.

CATALOGUE DEPARTMENT.

The cataloguers who deal with books for the Branches have been somewhat overwhelmed during the past few months by the unusually large purchases which the special appropriation has made possible. Gradually, however, the books are being taken care of and sent forward to their destinations. In these recent purchases for the Branches, particular attention has been given to supplying the demand for non-fiction, which is quite active in certain classes, notably industrial arts, biography, and pedagogy.

The Library's series of Brief Reading Lists receives frequent additions. The issues just published include one on Cookery and Preserving, compiled by Miss E. Carolyn Merrill, which returns to the field of Brief Reading List No. 2, "Domestic Production and Preservation of Food," a war-time publication, now long out of print; and one on Dante, compiled by Mr. L. E. Taylor, whose membership in the Dante Society indicates his special interest in the subject. A new edition of Mr. Conroy's list of "One-Act Plays in English," has become necessary, and will soon be off the press, and a list on Pageants is nearly ready for the printer.

To our larger bibliographies will soon be added a general list of modern works in Italian, prepared by Miss Mary H. Rollins especially for Italian readers, with notes and editorial matter in their own language.

CHILDREN'S DEPARTMENT.

While there have been no story hours during the summer months, different members of the Children's Department have been going once a week to the children's wards in the

City Hospital to read to the children there. The wards have been full nearly all the time and the children, many of whom are card-holders in one or another part of the city, have greatly enjoyed the visits of the "Library teachers."

The Hospital has a good little collection of children's books of its own and a librarian who distributes them among the patients, but during the summer there is a shortage of people to assist by reading or telling stories. Now that the teachers from the Public Schools are resuming their work there, the Children's Department of the Library will discontinue this special service.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES DEPARTMENT.

The reference desks which formerly stood just inside the entrance of the Fine Arts reading-room have been moved to the west end of the room. This change has made it possible to install a much-needed third card-catalogue case and a desk for the reference assistant on duty.

Ten "cabinets" have been removed from the south-west pavilion, thereby making room for a readers' table and a wide passage into the West Gallery. Adequate lighting will soon be installed here. In future, the West Gallery will not be completely reserved for art students, as heretofore, but readers will be sent there whenever, as not infrequently happens, the tables of the south room are overcrowded.

BRANCH DEPARTMENT.

An electric vacuum cleaner has been bought for use in the Branches. It is portable, and will be sent on request from one Branch to another.

BRIGHTON BRANCH.

The Brighton Branch has a piano. It was lent by a public-spirited family in the Aberdeen section, who were closing their home for a long absence

in Europe. The owners were acquainted with the children's story-hour programme carried on at the Branch, and believed that the piano would add to the enjoyment of the little folks who throng the library for that hour.

EAST BOSTON BRANCH.

On October 15th a new branch library, called the Jeffries Point Reading Room, was opened on Webster Street in the Jeffries Point section of East Boston. This is bound to be a great convenience, as the people who live in this part of the island have heretofore been forced to walk from one and a half to two miles to the Branch on Meridian Street. The collection of books in the new Reading Room will include the works of the best Italian authors, as this is an Italian district.

NORTH END BRANCH.

A commemorative exhibition was held at the North End Branch in connection with the 600th anniversary of the death of Dante. The beautiful relief given to the Branch by the Dante Alighieri Society of Boston served as a fitting background for the books written by and about the great poet, and many illustrations of the "Divine Comedy" and views of places intimately connected with Dante's life were hung upon the walls. The Italians, who are very proud of Dante, to them the "greatest poet the world has ever known," showed great interest in the exhibition.

WEST ROXBURY BRANCH.

The corner-stone of the new building for the Branch was laid on September 10th, by Mr. Frank A. Morse, of the Committee which was largely instrumental in securing the building. Mr. William C. S. Healy, editor of the City Record, represented the Mayor; the Library was represented by Mr. Belden. About five hundred persons were present. A blue print of the new building is on exhibition at the Branch.

With the Juniors

Edited by Francis P. Znotas

Practically everyone in the Library expected this paper to appear. Now that the expectation has been realized, it is natural that the juniors should have a share in it, they being a part of the Library staff. It is now up to us juniors to keep our part of the paper as near as may be to the standard set by our seniors. We all know, or should know, that one person cannot do the work alone. The main essential is the co-operation of every junior member of the staff.

Send in your contributions, regardless of their nature. The editorial staff will decide whether or not the article should go in. If there is a question you wish to ask, send it along with your contributions, and you will see the question with its answer in the following issue. All contributions should be sent to the Children's Room or given to Mr. Znotas.

Several months ago Mr. Blaisdell began meeting the boys at regular intervals in the lunch room. These meetings are still being held on the first Monday and second Tuesday of each month. At the start, great enthusiasm was shown by all who attended. At suggestions from the boys, several improvements in the service were made. Later two secretaries were elected by the boys; this gave an opportunity for those who did not attend to question the secretaries. Eventually, however, the boys began to show lack of enthusiasm, and consequently the meetings lost a great deal of their former interest.

The meetings are still held, and there is a chance of regaining their early success. In order to make them successful, we must show enthusiasm, and the best way to show that is by attending.

On an afternoon in the early part of September, a number of boys met Mr. Belden in the Trustees' Room. At this meeting the boys received a great deal of good advice. Mr. Belden made the meeting extremely interesting. Among the topics which he discussed only one was in criticism of the boys. Against his will, as he stated, Mr. Belden referred to their card-playing in the Library. Not wishing to make a rule, he simply pointed out the inadvisability of card-playing in the Library during the lunch or supper hours.

Since most of the boys had never been in the Trustees' Room before, Mr. Belden concluded the meeting by speaking of the interesting paintings, furniture, and other things in the room.

The new junior members of the evening and Sunday force are as follows: Earl Bishop, Harold W. Atwood, Jeremiah J. Cronin, Joseph F. Doherty, Harry D. Fisher, Robert King, Jerome H. Lynch, John W. McNally, Frank M. Powers, Thomas F. Russell, and William Wallace.

Edward G. Murray, better known among the boys as "Shakespeare," and Solomon Gordon have lately left the service.

QUESTION BOX.

Where do the Abbey paintings begin?

Directly over the entrance to the Registration Department.

Are the periodicals in the book-case classed as fiction?

No. Any of those magazines may be taken out, in addition to the two fiction books allowed on a card.

Our Neighbor Libraries

THE SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The organization meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston was held in the Town Room on June 4, 1918; twenty-six persons were present. The object of the Association, as stated in the constitution, is "by bringing librarians into closer relationship with each other . . . to stimulate greater usefulness and opportunity for service."

The regular monthly meetings began in the following September, and have been continued from September to May, inclusive, up to the present time. So far as possible a new library is visited at each meeting; members of the staff give historical and descriptive accounts of the library, and opportunity is afforded for inspection of the physical equipment. The meetings have demonstrated that united effort is practical and efficient, and that co-operation reduces lost motion and renders a many-sided benefit not attainable by unaided effort.

An eagerness for coöperation within the boundaries of membership has brought the Association to a point where wider effectiveness awaits only the driving force of a keener civic consciousness. A readiness for such increased usefulness was early shown by the appointment of a committee "to report on a plan for learning the scope and methods of the special libraries of Boston." The eventual publication of the "Directory of Special Libraries in Boston and Vicinity," now in its second edition, was the first practical contribution of the Association toward bringing into closer relation these resources of our city. The admirably arranged "Union List of Periodicals and Annuals taken by eleven Special Libraries in Bos-

ton," published during the present year, was a second step in the same direction.

The program of the Association must seek to provide at once for internal benefits and no less for external contacts and progress in public service. The visiting and inspection of libraries, the round-table discussion of problems, and other means of self-education are valuable and helpful, but these alone will not gain for the Association a place in the councils of the profession. This end can be attained only by accomplishments of broader intent, such as bibliographical or other publications and the service possible to the Registration Committee. The society which can point to a record of tangible production and appreciable service can claim recognition as a significant professional organization. E. W. C.

A meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston was held Sept. 20 in the Social Law Library, Court House, Pemberton Square. The librarian, Mr. Howard Stebbins, gave an account of the origin and character of the library and conducted the party through the reading room and stacks. Thirty-five were present.

The October meeting will be held on Tuesday, the 18th, in the Staff Lecture Room of the Boston Public Library, and will be an open meeting for all librarians interested in the work of the Special Libraries. Mr. Belden will speak on the opportunities of wider knowledge for the Association.

Tables will be reserved at 5.30, in the Women's Educational and Industrial Union lunch-room, 264 Boylston St., for members and other librarians who wish to meet there for supper before this meeting.

Announcements

STAFF CLUB.

The eight meetings of the Club for the season just opening are to be arranged as follows; members will find it convenient to schedule the dates in advance, so as to reserve the evenings.

Tuesday, October 25: Hallowe'en Party.
Wednesday, November 30: Dramatics.
Thursday, December 29: Musical Program.
Friday, January 27: Address, followed by dancing.
Tuesday, February 28: Dramatics.
Wednesday, March 29: Lecture.
Thursday, April 27: Musical Program.
Friday, May 26: Annual meeting, with social features.

All the meetings will begin at 7.45 P.M.

The arrangements for each meeting will be in the hands of a special committee; for the Hallowe'en Party on October 25th the committee consists of Miss Bessie L. Doherty, Chairman; Miss Katherine S. Rogan, Mr. William Graham, and Miss Edith Gustafson.

The Dramatic Committee of the Club issues the following call:

It is proposed by the Program Committee of the Staff Club to devote two evenings during the year to bringing out plays. In doing this, it will be helpful to know the name of every member of the Library staff who is interested in this work. Each one of you is therefore asked to write on a card your name, the department in the Library of which you are a member, and what work you wish to do: Acting, costuming, make-up, holding the prompt book, stage managing, lighting, scene shifting, etc. Send the card to Miss Christine Hayes, Ordering Department, Boston Public Library.

This request for names applies to every one in the service of the Boston Public Library. In putting on the plays we shall need everybody's help, and we can promise you some fun along with the work.

The treasurer announces that the membership fees for 1921-1922 are now due; she will be glad to have them paid at the first meeting of the

Club. Dues from the Branches should be sent to Miss Helen Hilton, Branch Department.

Many of those who signed the roll of the Club have paid no dues since it was organized; if they desire to retain their membership, they should send in the fee of fifty cents without delay.

The age limit was abolished at the last meeting of the Club; membership is now open to every person on the staff who is engaged in actual library work. Anyone who desires to join the Club should send his name at once to Mr. William Graham, Secretary, Catalogue Department.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

An appreciative article about the Employees' Benefit Association, by William Justin Mann, appeared in the *Boston Post*, Thursday, September 29.

The Secretary of the Benefit Association reports that Miss Rachel Naiman, of the Charlestown Branch, is seriously ill.

LECTURE HALL.

During the month from October 15 to November 15, the Library Lecture Hall will be used as follows:—

Sundays, 3.30 p.m. Public lectures.
Mondays, 7 and 8 p.m. University Extension: Spanish.
Oct. 24 and Nov. 14, 3 p.m. Ruskin Club.
Tuesdays, 4.45, 7 and 8 p.m. University Extension: French.
Thursdays, 8 p.m. Public lectures.
Fridays, 4 p.m. Story Hour.
8 p.m. University Extension: English Composition.
Nov. 4, 2 p.m. Welfare Committee of Women's Auxiliary.
Saturdays, 7.45 p.m. Trade Union College: Class in Music.
Nov. 5 and 12, 9 a.m. Miss Wheelock's School.
Nov. 12, 10.30 a.m. Massachusetts State Federation, Department of Civil Service.

News Notes on Government Publications

Edited by Edith Guerrier

Bulletin No. 18

October 15, 1921

Supplement to "Library Life," Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

THE LIBRARY INFORMATION SERVICE.

In September, 1919, the bill to provide for a Library Information Service in the Bureau of Education was introduced in both houses of Congress. The service proposed in this bill was intended to form a connecting link between the libraries of the United States and the many Government offices by which information of the utmost value is being accumulated continually.

At the present time there is no current digest of selected information so classified that timely matter on a desired subject can be quickly located. "News Notes on Government Publications," issued by the Boston Public Library, has been an inadequate attempt to meet the need for such a printed digest of current information. The facts that requests for it have come from thirty states and that letters commending it are constantly received show that the Government digest suggested is earnestly desired.

In addition to printed matter there is in the various Government offices a vast amount of information, often in mimeographed form, contained in card catalogues and vertical files, which should at need be made accessible for the benefit of the public, as it could be through the medium of a library clearing house.

The other duties which such an office would perform have been outlined from time to time in the newspapers. About 50 selected articles on the proposed office have been clipped from papers in all parts of the United States and placed on file in the Information

Office of the Boston Public Library.

It may be of interest at this time to note briefly the various stages through which this bill has passed:—

June, 1919. Bill drafted by Committee of the American Library Association, annual conference at Asbury Park.

June, 1919. Bill presented in House, and referred to House Committee on Education.

July, 1919. Bill presented in Senate, and referred to Senate Committee on Education.

August, 1919. Hearing before House Committee on Education.

September, 1919. Hearing before Senate Committee on Education.

September, 1919. Bill favorably reported by Senate and House Committees on Education.

The Bill was called in the Senate a number of times; at the request of Senator Smoot of Utah it was always "laid aside." It came up in the House in December; at the request of Congressman Blanton of Texas it was "laid aside" there also.

In April, 1920, the President of the American Library Association, accompanied by two other members of the Association, made a special trip to Washington and called upon several senators for the purpose of urging action with regard to this Bill. At Senator Smoot's request the following letter was written, setting forth the need for the proposed service:—

April 26, 1920.

Honorable Reed Smoot,
United States Senate,
Washington, D. C.

DEAR SIR: I take pleasure in answering a few of your questions regarding S. 2457, a bill to provide for a library information service in the Bureau of Education, in which the American Library Association as a body is interested.

It purposes to act for libraries as a clearing house of Government information. The

librarian in charge of the proposed office will keep in touch with the current printed resources of the Government and the current needs of the people and will assist the librarians of the United States to connect the people with the work of the Government.

With regard to the matter of duplication, no other office is doing or ever has done the work proposed by the Library Information Service. The proposed office does not plan to distribute any printed matter. It does plan to help centralize all library mailing lists in the Public Documents Office. It does not plan to duplicate any of the indexes, catalogs, or price lists now issued by the Documents Office. It does plan to work in closest co-operation with the Joint Committee on Printing and with the Documents Office.

Concerning avoidance of waste. One pamphlet in a library will supply hundreds of people. Congress by passing this bill has the opportunity of reducing private distribution to a minimum and of backing up the work of the libraries of the various districts.

Librarians desire this office in the Bureau of Education because it is distinctly an educational service. That without such a service satisfactory results cannot be achieved is proved by the fact that hundreds of indexes, catalogs, and price lists, and the distribution of tons of printed matter have resulted in millions of wasted dollars and tens of millions of unread publications.

We respectfully ask that you give careful consideration to our desire to place our libraries and our services at the disposal of our Government. The bill presented has been carefully edited and the place where the service belongs has been thoughtfully considered.

Faithfully yours,

CHALMERS HADLEY, *President*,
American Library Association.

June, 1920. A. L. A. in annual conference at Colorado Springs passed second resolution endorsing the bill.

April, 1921. Bill was again introduced in Senate and House.

June, 1921. A. L. A. in annual conference passed third resolution endorsing the bill.

In August, 1921, the project entered upon a new phase, as described in the following letter sent to "Public Libraries":—

To the Editor of "Public Libraries":

The need for a Central Information Office for libraries was never greater than it is at the present time; but I have been informed by those high in authority that during the period of reorganization no new Government divisions will be approved. I have also been informed by the Public Printer,

Mr. George H. Carter, that he is so thoroughly convinced of the need for the suggested service that he proposes to start it in the office of the Superintendent of Documents without legislative action, as he believes it to be a legitimate service for that office to perform.

The librarians have for years been urging the establishment of a library information office, and they have gone on record time after time, requesting that it be placed in the Bureau of Education, where as an educational extension service they believe it belongs.

Now that it is decided to place it in the Government Printing Office, the only position librarians can reasonably take is one of thankfulness that it is to be, rather than of regret that it is not to be where they had hoped.

We may without reservations wholeheartedly congratulate ourselves that there is at the head of the Printing Office a man honorable, intelligent and broad-minded, who has had the vision to recognize the fact that the citizens of the United States need to know their Government and who has the wish to help them to that knowledge by making the printed publications of the Government better known through educational publicity methods.

All honor is due to Congressman Raker who first presented the bill, and to Senator McLean who twice presented it in the Senate, and whose speech on the subject showed his grasp of the situation and proved unquestionably that the service was in reality an economy measure sadly needed.

It now remains for librarians to show their appreciation of the service to be extended to them, and to use it to such good purpose that people will naturally turn to the public libraries for authentic Government information, which should be the best and the most efficient producer of the result we call Americanism.

Yours faithfully,

EDITH GUERRIER.

NOTES ON THE PUBLICATIONS.

CONGRESS.

The following Senate and House reports and documents of the 67th Congress, 1st session, contain matter of special interest:

Senate Report 264. August, 1921. Refunding of obligations of foreign governments.

Senate Report 829. March. Reconstruction and production.

House Report 4. April 19. Restriction of immigration.

House Report 318. August 1. Veterans' Bureau.

Senate Document 8. May 2. The struggle of the Irish People.

House Document 17. April 19. Report of National Advisory Committee for Aeronautics.

House Document 61. April 27. The Fiscal Problems of the United States.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Volume I of the Fourteenth Census of the United States, entitled "Population, 1920, Number and Distribution of Inhabitants," has recently issued from the Government Printing Office. According to the maps, the only states which have decreased in population are Nevada and Mississippi. The state which has made the greatest proportional increase is Arizona.

Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce, Special Agents Series No. 206, "Colombia"; No. 208, "Bolivia, a Commerical and Industrial Handbook"; and No. 210, "Switzerland," are timely and useful publications, all of them well illustrated. The Handbook on Colombia is admirably indexed.

Two of the most important sources of information on business are the "Survey of Current Business" and the remodeled "Commerce Reports." The former is a monthly survey of business conditions in the United States and the latter a weekly survey of foreign trade. The "Survey of Current Business," through tabulations and charts, presents in a few pages of reading matter the information contained in thousands of reports, some of which are not to be obtained by libraries. The "Commerce Reports" are now printed in legible type, and the contents on the cover show at a glance what information one may expect to find in the pages following. The expanded table of contents on the inside cover is really an index. The size of both bulletins is convenient, and the arrangement of the printed matter is attractive and dignified. The small business man need no longer regret his inability to subscribe for one of the expensive "business services," now that these clear and authentic compilations of business data are available for his use at the nearest Public Library.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

The "Introduction and Summary" to the "Mineral Resources of the United States, 1920," published by the Geological Survey, shows the value of the mineral products of the United States from 1880 to 1920 inclusive, by years. The approximate total value of the minerals produced in the United States in the year 1920 was \$6,707,000,000, over three billions in excess of the production for 1916.

A "List of the publications of the United States Geological Survey" (not including topographic maps), August, 1921, is one of the most valuable lists of the sort issued by any Government office. The finding list of states, areas, subjects and authors enables one to trace readily every publication which has been issued by the Survey.

"The Publications of the Bureau of Mines," August, 1921, on the other hand, gives very little assistance in locating information on a given subject. The arrangement is by bulletin and circular numbers, which mean nothing to a man who wants something on the "determination of mercury," or on "zirconium." He cannot know that he will find these under such headings as "Technical Paper 227" or "Bulletin 186." A finding list similar to that published by the Geological Survey would make the valuable material issued by this Bureau accessible to many persons who need the information, but do not know how to locate it.

Bureau of Mines, Bulletin 206, "Petroleum Laws of all America," 1921, is a valuable and much needed contribution to the sources of information on fuel oils.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Bulletin No. 278 of the Bureau of Labor Statistics, "Wages and Hours of Labor in the Boot and Shoe Industry, 1907 to 1920," gives data for 38 occupations for males only, 12 occupations for females only, and 31 occupations for both males and females.

Bulletin No. 285, "Minimum-Wage Laws of the United States: Construction and Operation," presents the laws now in force in the various jurisdictions, together with the orders issued under them, judicial decisions upholding and construing the laws, with some account of their operation and of the methods of administering them. The bulletin is based on official reports and on a survey made by a representative of the bureau, which may be characterized as general rather than detailed.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

In Postal Bulletin No. 12668, September 23, an article appears on "How to Meet the Public," by an Assistant Superintendent of Mails. The style is so unusual for a Government publication that it seems worth while to quote a few sentences:—

Should the inquirer grow ugly, keep cool, smile (it is worth a hundred words), let him rave, he will get over it, then in a kindly manner ask him "Just what do you wish us to do?" This method will take him off his guard and he will cool down, but if this last method fails, tell him in a kindly voice that you regret that you are unable to satisfy him, keep your head, think before you speak, do not say anything that will continue the argument, play the gentleman, and above all, do not worry. "The barking dog seldom bites," and if you have done your best to handle the case, you may rest assured that the postmaster and the department will back you up; but always keep in mind that you are the pivot, settle it if you can, remembering at all times that each end has its rights and it is your place to see that each end gets its just dues.

A finished transaction is an asset, unfinished business is a liability. Finish the job.

The Editor of the Postal Bulletin comments on the article as follows:—

There is no talent as effective as tact. The writer of the above has tact.

MISCELLANEOUS GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS.

INTERSTATE COMMERCE COMMISSION.

The "Interstate Commerce Act, revised to August, 1921," is supplemented by the text or related sections of several acts constantly called for, such as the amended Transportation Act of 1920, the Clayton Anti-Trust

Act, the Elkins Act as amended, the Merchant Marine Act, 1920, Parcel Post Act and Standard Time Act.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

The 35th Annual Report of the Bureau of American Ethnology, part one of which was recently received, deals with the art and industries of the Kwakiutl Indians, who dwell on the Pacific coast of North America in the vicinity of Fort Rupert, Vancouver Island, British Columbia. It describes their methods and devices in hunting and fishing, and in gathering and preserving other kinds of food, and gives some of their recipes for cooking.

United States National Museum, Bulletin 113, "Life Histories of North American Gulls and Terns," is an interesting monograph, profusely and beautifully illustrated with half tones. At the end are 16 colored plates of the eggs of these birds.

UNITED STATES TARIFF COMMISSION.

The Government Document Service has received "Tariff Information Surveys" treating of the following commodities:—

Beads, Jewelry, and Precious Stones.
Bristles and Brushes.
Brooms and Broom Corn.
Cork.
Enamel Ware and other Metal Products.
Feathers, Artificial Flowers and Millinery Ornaments.
Fireworks, Matches and Ammunition.
Lead.
Machinery.
Straw Hats.
Toys and Games.
Watches and Clocks.

These surveys of the articles listed in the Tariff Act of 1913 give valuable data on the size of the industry, chief sources of materials, methods of production, and domestic and foreign production and trade. Forty-three such bulletins have been received to date.

The Tariff Commission's recent bulletin on the "Wool Growing Industry" is one of the most valuable studies of the wool industry ever published. Part I gives a survey of the world production and consumption of wool and of wool control during the war; Part II gives the story of wool growing in the United States.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume I, No. 2

November 15, 1921

CONTENTS.

LINDSAY SWIFT:		HOLIDAY OPENING	20
SONNET: A BOOK MAN	13	DEDICATION OF KRIGEL SQUARE	20
A VITAL PERSONALITY	13	NEWS ITEMS	21
TRIBUTES OF FRIENDS	15	WITH THE JUNIORS	22
MINUTE OF THE TRUSTEES	16	OUR NEIGHBOR LIBRARIES	23
BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE	16	ANNOUNCEMENTS	24
EDITORIALS	17		
DR. PUTNAM'S ADDRESS	18	SUPPLEMENT.	
LOUISE M. COSTELLO	19	NEWS NOTES ON GOVERNMENT PUBLI- CATIONS, No. 19	*5-*8

LINDSAY SWIFT.

His spirit seemed an eagle but half tamed;
It has flown forth, and now we call him dead.
"I am a book man," of himself he said,—
The scholar's sacred name he never claimed.
Yet ever as he labored, sudden flamed
Along the quiet path he chose to tread
A kindling fire,—sometimes to cheer it sped,
Sometimes to burn with scorn the thing he blamed.

Burdens he bore that now are laid aside;
What rest could satisfy the deepest needs
Of him who forty years had worn the yoke?
His heart was chivalrous, his honor tried.
Perhaps Death knighted him with kingly stroke:—
"Thou man of books, arise a man of deeds!"

M. R. B.

A VITAL PERSONALITY.

It is extremely difficult to speak of Lindsay Swift in the past tense. One of his old friends recently said in a letter: "I can't write about his going away, because I don't think of him that way at all," and another, in similar vein: "He is one of the people you think of as always going on—and I'm sure he is." People of marked individuality always leave this impression on their immediate circle, but

this friend of ours so imbued whatever he wrote with his vitality that those who knew him only through his contributions to the press felt that his work was that of a man very much alive and quite *sui generis*. He had an instinctive sense for words, and an ability to use them with discretion and distinction; he was never merely obvious or commonplace, and he always wrote with conviction. But the sum total of these characteristics could not have produced the results which he achieved; only the unconsci-

ous infusion of that essence which we call personality accounted for them. It was because he wrote very much as he talked that he was such a delightful letter-writer. You could always visualise the man when you read his letters. He was inordinately conscientious about answering letters, and the demands made upon him in this way were often very heavy. Innumerable aspirants to a literary career, a large proportion of them women, appealed for advice and encouragement, and he always gave the one even if he had to withhold the other. He once said that he should like to have inscribed upon his tombstone: "The Epistolary Friend of Woman."

But we, his friends and fellow-workers, have more intimate associations with him than these, and there are certain phases of his mind and character that we shall long remember. We recall, for example, his open-mindedness — his fair-mindedness — his effort to learn and see your side of a question, and his willingness to accept your view if he found that your argument was sounder than his. He came out of a heated discussion without resentment, and some of his best friends were men and women with whom he differed radically on many points.

In one respect he was unusual; he was essentially a modest man (the word is used in its generic sense). He could fight other people's battles better than his own—press their claims to recognition more forcefully than he was willing to argue his own.

I think that few of us realize how well he bore his handicaps—how deeply he felt them. A man who had long known him, but saw him seldom, lately said: "He was, intellectually, a good deal of a stimulus to me. Moreover, he taught me wisdom by the way he bore his afflictions and the happiness he got out of his ordinary interests. But he always seemed to me a most unordinary sort of man."

Perhaps the two characteristics which took the strongest hold upon those who knew him best were his capacity for, and his ideals of friend-

ship, and a most engaging and unfailing sense of humor. He made warm friends in every walk of life and among people of all ages. One of the highest tributes continually paid him, and one that he valued at its full worth, was the affection of young people for him. His children's friends and his friends' children found him companionable, stimulating and exhilarating, and constantly sought his society. One of the young men who often visited him remarked not long ago: "I would rather talk with Mr. Swift than with any of my contemporaries; he seems younger to me. His ethical, like his literary standards, are high, and though you get these indirectly, you get them just the same."

Like most warm-hearted and impulsive men, he sometimes found himself doing battle for quite undeserving objects. A very seedy "down-and-outer," bearing the name of a precious stone, once sought Mr. Swift's sympathy and aid, alleging that deafness had lost him a perfectly good job. His story was so simple, logical and moving that Mr. Swift at once set to work to provide the unfortunate with some means of livelihood. Numerous friends furnished the young man with temporary odd jobs, until it became evident that physical exertion was not his *métier*. Then the sufferer, with apparent great reluctance, suggested that if he could hire a type-writer, he could soon find work enough to buy the machine.. The proposition was acted upon, and the first month's rent was paid in advance—though not by the precious stone. Mr. Swift breathed freely for six weeks,—until, in fact, it was peremptorily brought to his notice that the jewel had sold the machine, and that somebody was responsible to the company for its value. It was in crises such as these that Mr. Swift's sense of humor came to his rescue, and carried him bravely through: "If a man asks for bread, give him a type-writer."

During the last two years the buoyancy that had always been so constant a factor in his life, lessened somewhat

under the strain of increasing ill-health; but the fundamental spring was never wholly quenched, and often gushed up when he was physically at his worst.

He loved life, and fought courageously and hopefully for its preservation, and yet he was never afraid to face the probabilities; his house was in order, and he was ready in all ways for the end, which came as he wished it might come. M. H. R.

In response to an invitation from the editors, some of Mr. Swift's friends have written the following tributes to his memory:

THE SCHOLAR.

I first met Lindsay Swift in the early eighties, when he was preparing a list of Frankliniana. Mere bibliography is not inspiring, and yet he made that particular list live by his genuine enthusiasm for the great American, and by his knowledge of what he represented and accomplished. It was the same with whatever Swift undertook. He obtained facts open to all, but he arranged them in his own manner and clothed them with his own personality. No one but a true scholar can do that, and Swift's scholarship in literature was pre-eminent. He did not overpower by weight of learning, nor did he rest upon his reading, which was wide and somewhat miscellaneous in character. But he knew his subject and had an unflinching certainty in his authorities, a quality that belongs only to one possessing a highly delicate yet well-trained critical study. A few minutes' conversation with him on a question of literature would bring out opinions keenly penetrating and stamped with individuality. It was a touch of originality enhanced in charm by his gift of expression. He used only good English—pure English—unsullied by the vulgarities and indolent habits of the day.

Good as was his conversation, the effect was not lasting. The succession of good things could not be carried in remembrance. But in his printed volumes the charm and instruction persist, and, to one who knew him, recall the somewhat abstracted manner, the sudden plunge and the often whimsical remark summing up the question. A good sense of humor, a real capacity for wit, and a certain broad way of looking on life made his sentences shine. His "History of Brook Farm" is a masterpiece, so reverent in appreciation of the good, so charitable to the weaknesses, and so sensible of the absurd or comic incident or twist in character. Raise a question on the American Revolu-

tion, on poetry, on feminism, or on the latest novel, and he would be equally at home, armed with comparisons or illustrations that surprised and, better, awakened dissent. He should have been a censor, a critic like Dryden or Dr. Johnson, independent and free to exercise his special faculty—yet no one knew better the value of drudgery and hard toil in gaining knowledge and reputation, and no one gave more unselfishly. As an independent he could have produced much more than he did; but he exercised a wider influence as Editor of the Library Publications, and he alone stood for scholarship in the perhaps necessary popularizing of reading imposed upon the library of to-day. He gave distinction to the institution.

WORTHINGTON CHAUNCEY FORD.

To the Editor of LIBRARY LIFE.

I have your letter of October 27, touching the memory of Mr. Swift. Although my acquaintance with Mr. Swift was never intimate, I have known him many years, and I always had him in high regard. He was a man whom the Library would indeed do well to honor. Meeting him only casually, as I did, one was most struck by his universal and apparently exhaustless knowledge. Ask him what you would, he always seemed to be filled, for the occasion, with the particular kind of information of which you were in search. I have met him on the steps of the Library, and had him entertain me for half an hour with some commentary on something I had written, in which he unfolded to me all sorts of things which I should have been delighted to know before I wrote and tried to inform the public, but which came to me more or less like a cold bath, after I had written.

BROOKS ADAMS.

Lindsay Swift was one of those busy men who are never too busy to hold out a helping hand. It must be twenty-five years since I first turned to him for the sort of assistance which a person highly skilled in the handling of books is capable of giving to a comparative beginner. He gave most generously, then and ever since. He was the soul of loyalty—to his friends, often lame dogs that he persisted in helping over stiles, to his college, to the Library—and to every loyalty he was constantly ready to pay the toll of time and trouble. It was a perpetual wonder that there was always time for something else, for study and production of his own which gave him a high place among contributors to the biographical, critical, and historical literature of his generation. To have had a man of Lindsay Swift's type of mind and character attached to the working staff of any library for so long a term of years was a possession, an adornment, to be remembered with un-failing gratitude.

M. A. DEWOLFE HOWE.

The following minute regarding Mr. Swift was adopted by the Trustees of the Library on Friday, October 14, 1921:

"Lindsay Swift, an employee of the Public Library of the City of Boston for 43 years, 3 months and 15 days, died suddenly in Cambridge on September 4, 1921. Mr. Swift entered the service of the Library in the Catalogue Department on May 27, 1878. On February 7, 1896, he became Editor of Library Publications, which position he held at the time of his death. Under his direction and through his fine literary taste and judgment the publications of the Boston Public Library achieved an enviable position in the library world. Always a gentleman, combining the outlook and taste of a scholar with a keen sense of humor, sympathy and candor outspoken, he endeared himself to his associates. The Board of Trustees gratefully place upon record their appreciation of his long, faithful and efficient service."

BIOGRAPHICAL NOTE.

Lindsay Swift, editor of the Library publications, son of John Lindsay Swift and Sarah Edes Allen, was born at Boston, July 29, 1856. His father was captain of the 41st Massachusetts Volunteers, and afterward judge advocate of Louisiana, during the Civil War; later, he was deputy collector of the port of Boston.

Lindsay Swift was prepared for college at the Roxbury Latin School and W. N. Eayrs's private school, Boston, and was graduated A.B. from Harvard with the class of 1877. Among his roommates in college was E. B. Hunt, of the class of 1878, afterwards chief cataloguer in the Library; the initials L. S., cut in the window-sill at Thayer 67, may still be seen. His favorite authors at this period were Dickens and Hardy; for the *Nation* he wrote a criticism of Hardy's "Return of the Native." His most serious college work was done in the course in American history given by Professor Henry Adams, and to this severe training he always ascribed his success as writer and editor.

In 1877 he entered the composing room of Rand, Avery & Co., making there a first-hand acquaintance with

printing and proof-reading; but from May 27, 1878, he was continuously employed in the Library, first as assistant in the Catalogue Department, then as Editor of Library Publications.

His own published writings were "Brook Farm: its members, scholars and visitors," 1900; "Literary landmarks of Boston," 1903; "Benjamin Franklin," 1910; "William Lloyd Garrison," 1911; memoirs (Hunt, Strobel), reviews, and papers on library subjects. He edited "The great debate between Hayne and Webster," 1898, and Mellen Chamberlain's "John Adams, the statesman of the American Revolution," 1898. His latest work was his share in the preparation of the report of his class on the 40th anniversary of their graduation, 1917.

Mr. Swift was a member of the Military Order of the Loyal Legion, Massachusetts Commandery; Colonial Society of Massachusetts; Massachusetts Historical Society; and Boston City Club.

He was married at Boston, July 19, 1881, to Katharine Agnese Jackson, of Abington; they have always lived at 388 Park St., West Roxbury, where Mr. Swift had a famous garden—a source, first of health, then of un-failing delight, to the enthusiastic gardener. Their children are Katharine Lindsay (married to Frederick Abildgaard Fenger, Cornell, 1906), Allen (Harvard, 1909, married), Harriet (Vassar, 1911), and Agnese. His daughter Katharine was in charge of the Barton-Ticknor Library from Feb. 2, 1911, to Sept. 23, 1912.

Mr. Swift died at Cambridge, of dilatation of the heart, Sunday, Sept. 11, 1921, in his 66th year. As befitted so loyal and eminent a son of Harvard, his funeral service on the following Friday, was held in Appleton Chapel. Honorary pallbearers were his classmates, President A. Lawrence Lowell, James Byrne, A. B. Denny, F. C. Hatch, S. E. Jennison, E. S. Martin; from the Library, Mr. Fleischner and Mr. Chevalier; ex-Senator A. J. Beveridge and Worthington C. Ford, the historian. The burial was at Forest Hills Cemetery.

L. E. T.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of fifteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. I, No. 2.

Nov. 15, 1921

SIGNAL PERSONALITIES.

"The Unknown Dead" — the words have been continually in our ears the past few weeks. All the nations of the world have united in glorifying the unknown soldier. The nameless hero has all at once taken on an unsuspected significance. We did not recognize him while he was among us; let us heap honors upon his grave.

So with our two Library heroes. We all liked breezy Frank Krigel, with his cheery smile, his elastic step, his prompt, willing spirit. We loved Lindsay Swift — genial, whimsical, full of enthusiasm and helpfulness, in spite of deafness and the "chronic apoplexy," about which he joked so bravely.

But we did not appreciate these men at their full value; we had no conception of the honors that would be paid to these daily associates of ours, once they were gone beyond recall. Krigel dies, and his city gives his name to one of its public squares — a lasting memorial to a heroic spirit. Swift dies, and his college — America's greatest university — buries him from its own chapel, and college presidents and writers of international fame walk beside his casket.

"There are more signal personalities about you now than you can well be conscious of. Don't let anybody cheapen them." We live in the midst of Unknown Soldiers, as heroic as any that are gone; let us make the most of them while they live. Let us wait and see before we depreciate. The memory of these two men — the soldier, the scholar — is a stirring incitement to a higher conception of our associates. One is tempted to eulogy, but others have been glad to praise these friends

of ours. If we turn our eyes about upon our living comrades we may discover within our own department some signal personality, some unknown soldier, of whom we can show our appreciation while he is yet beside us. Let us give "full credit and value" to the men and women with whom we work; sometime we shall realize how fine they were.

LIBRARY LIFE extends a cordial welcome to the youngest member of the Library family, the Jeffries Point Reading Room, and to its Librarian, Miss Mathilde di Bernardi, who has written an interesting account of the opening on October 15th, to be published in the next issue.

The sonnet, "A Book Man," is from the pen of Miss Mary A. Bartlett, an associate of Mr. Swift in the Catalogue Department from 1897 to 1911, whom it is a pleasure to re-introduce to the members of the staff. The sonnet was suggested by Swift's characteristic retort when someone spoke of scholarship in the Library: "Don't profane the sacred name of scholar; I am a book man." It is interesting to remember that an earlier sonnet by Miss Bartlett, entitled "The Prism," was published on the occasion of the death of Mr. E. B. Hunt, who had been Mr. Swift's college roommate.

Every member of the staff should make an effort to see the remarkable exhibit of "The Fatherless Children of France — Their Book," in the Fine Arts Exhibition Room during the fortnight beginning November 14th. It is seldom that so much original material — autographs, manuscripts, paintings and drawings — of the highest value and interest, has been shown in the Library at any one time.

The editors regret that the pressure of extraordinary matter this month has compelled the postponement to the next issue of important book reviews and much departmental news.

At the moment of going to press, we learn with regret of the death of Thomas F. Boyle, Trustee of the Library from 1902 to 1912.

DR. PUTNAM'S ADDRESS.

On Tuesday noon, October 18, Dr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, spoke informally to the staff of the Boston Public Library. After referring to his own former connection with the Library, he said:

As I think of the relation of the individual here to the institution and to his work, the things which I feel that he should especially value are these:—

In the first place, the beauty of your building. I never come back to this building without a shock of exultation, a thrill; and when I came here for that meeting one evening last summer, when it was completely free and radiant, I thought nothing so exquisite in modern architecture had ever touched my eyes or my feelings. Now this is something—an exquisite influence for refinement upon any person doing even the most elementary work within its portals.

Second, this is an institution with a past, with a very great prestige which it has not lost, an institution with a primacy among the great municipal libraries of the United States, and in many respects still preserving that primacy.

Third, the organization. If you have studied the constitutions of other municipal libraries, you will realize how fortunate the Boston Public Library is, with its small Board of Trustees, responsible in a general way to the city administration, but an independent corporation, nevertheless, in many respects. No library in the United States, so far as I know, has so fortunate a constitution, fortunate for efficiency.

But there is also the work itself, and as to this, what I have to say is equally true of libraries and librarians everywhere. We do not often enough stop to think what a completely unique subject matter it is that we are dealing with, of the tremendously far-reaching power and influence it may exercise upon innumerable people in innumerable ways. That is true of

books in general, and should dignify every book that passes through our hands. We ought never to handle a book without thinking of the power or energy of that book.

Similarly, we ought never to handle a reader without individualizing him in relation to his book. It is very difficult in the rush and turmoil, when two and a half million books have to be hurried out every year, to realize that the reader is the unit. The reader is to himself all in all; the fact that there are other readers signifies nothing to him. He is the unit and he is entitled to be considered as the unit.

One ought to think also of another matter, another aspect—of the significance of what we do in relation to the dignity that belongs to the book itself, a dignity which is reflected on the meanest operation that goes to preparing the book for the reader. I have in mind what would be called the meanest, like putting on a label, a bookplate, and all that preliminary detail. We ought to give dignity to that. There is no mean work in a library. We talk about the library profession and we all have a sort of theory of what a learned profession is, like medicine; if challenged, perhaps we might find it a little difficult to see how there can be a professional way of putting on a label. Now believe me, there is. No worker in a library who is content to be indifferent, to be slovenly in putting the label on the back of a book, is going to rise to professional values with regard to books, or to any powerful or influential relation with them.

I think it was Charles Lamb who said of somebody, "He had small knowledge of letters, for his reading never extended beyond the *Gentleman's Magazine*; but he had a pride in literature from being among books, for he was a librarian." There is the problem of interest, cheerfulness, optimism of a worker in a library. He would gladly recognize that there is something very fine about literature, something very stimulating in the work of a librarian, but he

thinks that, after all, this necessary minor work is pretty much a matter of routine, very wearisome, never seeming to get anywhere. I think that such a young man or young woman ought to try to reflect upon these larger relations and believe, as I do, in the great dignity of every single operation that goes on in connection with that book.

We who are engaged in a particular work in an institution and feel that we are not getting on, are apt to reflect, "I am doing everything I am asked to do. Why don't I get on?" One main trouble is that we do not conscientiously study our own job, but are trying to study some one's else job instead of perfecting our own.

I notice a good many people think that initiative consists in taking an active interest in some one's else job and proving that one's self is more competent to handle it than the other is. Now the initiative of the kind that the Chief is concerned with is, to be sure, your ability to handle a superior job; but the test he applies is the ability to perfect the job you are on, and there is no job in the library incapable of perfection.

There is a democracy throughout our organization, but of course democracy means not simply that I am as good as you are, but it means that you are as good as I am, and that is what one ought always to think of in one's relation to the rest of the organization with which we serve. The Boston Public Library has had in its past great learning, great talent, great devotion, and signal personalities, and there are more about you now than you can well be conscious of. The difference between professional work and commercial work is that the professional worker gives full credit and value to those personalities. Don't let anybody cheapen your work. That is what professional pride means. Don't allow anybody to cheapen it. I don't care what the work is that goes on under this roof, it can be cheapened, can be depreciated, can be disparaged, and anybody who cheapens it—the book you are handling, what you are

doing to it, your assistant, your superior, any part of the organization,—is cheapening your profession; he is taking away from you something that you have a right to and that you must not allow to be taken away.

It seems very queer to be coming back here and saying such things, the more so because many of you are such old friends of mine, and I should be coming back after twenty-two years rather to exchange reminiscences with you and speak of the gladness of what we experienced together and sorrow in the absence of those who experienced it with us. I should come back just to address myself to those colleagues of mine, not old colleagues, but ever young colleagues. Mr. Belden, however, asked me to say something to the younger members of the staff, not one of whom has ever met me, or whom I have ever met and talked with. But after all it makes little difference whether we have ever met before, for our work inevitably makes us acquaintances, and we shall always be known to each other by the company we keep.

LOUISE M. COSTELLO.

Louise Margaret Costello entered the service of the Boston Public Library as assistant at Station 23, City Point Reading Room, in September, 1920. In December of the same year she was transferred to the Issue Department at the Central Library, and later, February 17, 1921, to the Children's Department. In the following April ill health forced her to give up her work in the Library. For a time she was in Maine, with the hope that in the country she might recuperate. But this proved of no avail and her life after her return to Boston in the summer was spent mostly in hospitals. She died October 9, 1921, at the age of seventeen. Those with whom she was associated during her brief connection with the Library will remember her sweet and gentle nature with affection, and will always be glad that she was with them even for a little while.

A. M. J.

HOLIDAY OPENING.

The experiment of opening the Central Library building for "public inspection" on a holiday was tried on Columbus Day, October 12, with interesting and favorable results. The public corridors, the central court, the Delivery Room and the Fine Arts Exhibition Room were open from 12 o'clock noon to 6 p. m. The attendance was large and steady, and it was evident that many of the visitors were seeing the inside of the building for the first time; only a few, who had expected to have access to the reference books in Bates Hall, showed any disappointment. By actual count, 547 persons, of whom 109 were children, passed in and out of the Fine Arts Exhibition Room during the afternoon. The largest attendance was between 3 and 5 o'clock, when from 35 to 50 persons were in the various rooms at one time. The mural decorations were the chief attraction, but a very considerable number of the visitors to the Fine Arts Exhibition Room examined the Dante Exhibit with studious interest. The Trustees have authorized, until further orders, the opening of the Central Library on other holidays under similar conditions.

D. J. D.

DEDICATION OF KRIGEL SQUARE.

On Sunday afternoon, November 6, the square at the intersection of Cambridge, Joy and Chambers Streets, West End, was named in honor of a young man from our Library, Frank J. Krigel, who gave his life in the Great War. With the Boston Public Library from August, 1910, till July, 1917; in the United States Army from July, 1917, until his death on January 13, 1919, Krigel was the only regular member of the Library staff who died in service overseas.

About two thousand people were gathered in the square for the cere-

mony of dedication, which was in charge of the West End Historical Society. Ex-Senator John I. Fitzgerald presided. At the head of a procession which formed a short distance away and marched to the Square, came Lieutenant Whelton, Chief Marshal, followed by Troop A, First Cavalry, M. N. G., the 10th Coast Artillery Corps band, the children of St. Joseph's parish, 11th Company Coast Artillery Corps, M. V. M., and massed colors, Head-quarters Company 301st Infantry, the delegation from the Library, men and women of St. Joseph's parish, and the James E. Welsh Post, American Legion. After prayers by the Rev. James Canarie, a former chaplain of the American army, followed singing by the choirs of St. Joseph's Church, of which Krigel was a communicant, and remarks by Mr. Belden, who spoke of Krigel as we had known him in the Library. Brigadier-General Charles H. Cole, in his eulogy, told of what democracy means to a soldier. The sign bearing the name, Krigel Square, was then unveiled by the father of the hero, and on it was placed a laurel wreath studded with small American flags. The band played the Star Spangled Banner and the service concluded with the sounding of taps, while massed flags dipped in salute, and three volleys were fired by a squad led by Krigel's old commander.

Mr. Buckley, for whom Krigel worked first as a runner in Bates Hall, writes of him as a tall, fair-complexioned boy who carried himself well, good-natured and a favorite with the public whom he met, and "a bear for work." He was athletic and vigorous; he loved out-of-doors. A cross-country tramp to Newton or to Wellesley after a day in the Library was as nothing to him. From Bates Hall he went to be an assistant in the Newspaper and Patent Rooms. The members of the Library staff like to tell of the boy and his mother who were such good companions, of how she would come down to the Library of an evening to walk home with him, and of how proudly he would take her

about from desk to desk in the different departments for a chat with his fellow workers.

With the coming of the war a new Krigel emerged. He enlisted, donned a uniform, and was off to Fort Strong, Peddock's Island, before those of us who knew him less well had time to miss his swiftly striding figure about the Library. He was a member of the Eleventh Company, First Regiment Massachusetts Volunteer Militia, and later, with the division of his Regiment into batteries, became attached to Battery B of the 55th Artillery. While he was at Fort Strong he came often to the Library in his free time for a word with his old associates or a visit to the Librarian's office. He was eager to go across, though his value to his superior officer at the fort led to a recommendation that he be allowed to remain there. But "God will take the sun out of the skies before he will take freedom out of the spirit of man." Overseas he was determined to go, and his share in the offensive at St. Mihiel, in the Second Battle of the Marne, and in the Meuse-Argonne entitled him to three battle clasps.

After the signing of the Armistice, he made his way to Brest, and there, within a few days of sailing for home, he was stricken with pneumonia and died.

Dulce et Decorum est pro Patria Mori.

C. H.

Mr. Belden's remarks at the dedication exercises were in part as follows:

"Among the treasured remembrances of his Chief at the Public Library are the informal visits made by Krigel to my office after his enlistment. He was ever the big, vigorous happy-hearted boy filled with pride and enthusiasm. In a shy, halting, naive manner he spoke of his delight in his new profession—that of a soldier of his country. He expressed again and again his pride in the Library, and looked forward to the time when, once more, he might take up civil work. He honored his city, and

for the country, *his* United States, he evinced that strong, abiding love and loyalty so characteristic of the untold thousands of young men who saw service in the World War. Krigel held no false conception of the nature of the life and work that lay before him overseas. He knew that "his bit" was needed. His duty, born of conviction, led him to do his part to help beat down a world menace. His example and his sacrifice—if the fates of war so decreed—were eagerly offered to keep aglow the fires of freedom—not alone in the old world, but in the new world—*his* land of the free. The memory of Frank J. Krigel is cherished and honored."

"Brave, good and true,
I see him stand before me now,
And read again on that young brow,
Where every hope was new,
How sweet were life! Yet, by the mouth
firm set,
And look made up for Duty's utmost debt,
I could divine he knew
That death within the sulphurous hostile
lines,
In the mere wreck of nobly-pitched designs,
Plucks heart's ease and not rue!"

NEWS ITEMS.

The Chief Engineer, Mr. Neiderauer, informs us that the new electric elevator being installed in the Central Library by the F. S. Payne Co., of Boston, will be ready for passenger service about Thanksgiving time. This is an improvement which has been long needed.

The desire of the Library to give aid in the study of present-day problems is shown in the two latest Brief Reading Lists prepared by the Catalogue Department. "The United States and Japan," compiled by Mr. L. E. Taylor, presents the literature of the various aspects of the American-Japanese question, while "Disarmament and Substitutes for War," compiled by Mr. Michael McCarthy, will, it is hoped, prove useful during the International Conference now in session.

The bibliography of Italian literature, mentioned in our October issue, is now in the hands of the printer.

With the Juniors

Edited by Francis P. Znotas

The boys who have attended the lunch-room meetings in the past have, as a rule, failed to do their part in asking questions. Everyone should bring up a question at some time or other. Try to come to the meetings, after this, with subjects for discussion.

Since the present junior force is largely made up of new members, it is deemed advisable to print the following results of discussions which have been held in previous meetings with Mr. Blaisdell:

You have undoubtedly noticed the books which are kept on the shelves nearest the table in each stack. These books are waiting to be collated and sent to the Bindery. Although it would not be considered criminal to take one of them to another stack to read, it is better not to disturb them.

When you have a number of call slips, do not lay some books down while looking up others, as by so doing you may cause a delay.

When a boy works "carrying the hall," he should try to learn as much about Bates Hall as possible. When time permits, he would do well to walk around and see where the different classes of books are located.

If a reader asks you a question and you are in doubt as to the correct answer, send the person to someone in authority. Do not try to guess at the answer.

When you are in a stack, if you hear your bell ring three times, send your car. If you hear but one bell, answer the telephone.

When a hall slip calls for a periodical, but does not indicate the volume desired, send up the last five volumes. If it calls for a set of an author's works, send up the first five volumes. In the event of a similar call on a home slip, send up the last two volumes in the case of a periodical and the first two volumes when a set of works is asked for.

When a slip has several numbers on it and the first book is not on shelf, find out the stack in which the second number is kept, then send the slip to that stack; do not send it back to the issue room.

Never send a crossed slip in a book, but always through the tube.

If a borrower returns a book and by an error the card is stamped in the wrong column, never erase the mistake, but stamp the card "returned."

When a home slip bears several numbers, the first of which calls for a starred book or pamphlet volume, look up the second number. If the slip has but one number, which calls for a starred book or a pamphlet volume, send up the book.

Do not deface the piers in the stacks.

QUESTION BOX.

If a cardholder has a seven-day non-fiction book charged on his card, is he allowed to take out two works of fiction, one of which is restricted to seven days?

Yes.

How many indicator cards are to be made out for a slip with a Bates Hall Reference number?

One.

A number of old issues of the *Library Bugle* have been found. We have one copy of No. 8, six of No. 11, and eight of No. 13.

A visitor had just received her directions to the "Frieze of the Prophets," when she asked, "And—now, who was the artist? I don't quite remember whether he was Longfellow or Tennyson."

After a card-holder had asked for the card catalogue, the attendant inquired whether she meant the fiction or the non-fiction catalogue.

The borrower replied, "Neither; I wish to look up some mathematics books."

Our Neighbor Libraries

REGISTRATION FOR LIBRARIANS.

The latest activity of the Special Libraries Association of Boston is the appointment of a special Committee on Registration, the demand for which has gradually been making itself apparent.

This committee, consisting of Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell, Chairman, and Mr. Daniel N. Handy, is the outcome of a two-fold need: first, the need of some means by which those members of our Association who desire a change of position may be informed of vacancies in the Special Library field; secondly, the need among many industries and business firms for exactly the kind of efficient service which a business librarian could give them.

Believing that this need has yet to be brought to the attention of a large proportion of firms in Boston and vicinity, the committee is making definite plans to reach many of them by letter or otherwise, and to do its best to create a demand for efficient library service.

As far as the actual filling of positions goes, the committee does not intend to run an employment agency which shall in any way seek to compete with those of established position operating about us. We rather shrink from the responsibility entailed in recommending people about whom we know comparatively little to firms of whose requirements we know even less. And so we are glad that the name assigned to us is merely that of Registration Committee. As such we shall endeavor to act as a clearing-house, leaving the actual selection to the applicant. The registration is in charge of Mrs. Hartzell, at 18 Somerset St.

The committee will work in co-operation with the placement service of Simmons College Library School, the registration departments of the Massachusetts Library Commission and the Young Women's Christian Association, and the Appointment

Bureau of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union. B. V. H.

The last meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston was held in the Staff Lecture Room of the Boston Public Library, on October 18, with fifty-six present. Mr. Belden led the discussion of the evening on "Opportunities for wider usefulness of the Special Libraries Association," which, according to his understanding, should comprise: first, the formation of a Registry which should keep on file a full account of the qualifications of each member of the Association; second, the consideration of the treatment of duplicate books and other library material; third, the compilation of a comprehensive Special Libraries directory; and, fourth, the inauguration of a Union catalogue which should list the more valuable and unusual resources of the libraries in Boston.

As a result of the discussion which followed, the following business was transacted: the appointment of a Publicity Committee, of a Registration Committee, with the appropriation of funds for its work, of a committee to consider the treatment of duplicate material, and finally, of a committee to consider the question of a Union catalogue.

The November meeting of the Association will be held on Tuesday, the 15th, at the New England Historic Genealogical Society, 9 Ashburton Place. The subject for the evening, "Resources of Boston libraries in history, travel and maps," will be presented by the following speakers: Miss Josephine E. Rayne, of the Historic Genealogical Society, Mr. John Murdoch, of the Boston Public Library, Mr. George Parker Winship, Librarian of the Widener Collection, Harvard University, and Mr. Julius H. Tuttle, Librarian of the Massachusetts Historical Society.

Tables for supper will be reserved at 5.30 in the dining-room of the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, 264 Boylston Street.

Announcements

STAFF CLUB.

Every one who went to the Staff Club Hallowe'en Party on October 25 seems to have had a very good time. Entertainment was provided in abundance. Black cats and witches, an occasional ghost, an energetic devil of Library origin, apple bobbing and fortune telling were all there. Mr. Cronan contributed two excellent ghost stories. Several ladies who showed prowess in apple-eating and modelling in chewing-gum were awarded prizes. Dancing followed the various contests, until the party broke up. The members of the committee for the evening were Miss Doherty, Mr. Graham, Miss Gustafson, and Miss Rogan.

The next meeting of the Staff Club, to be held in the Staff Lecture Room of the Central Library on Wednesday evening, November 30, will be devoted to dramatics. "A Wire Entanglement," a one-act comedietta by Robert Marshall, is already in rehearsal, with a picked cast headed by Miss Mary E. Prim, Miss Edith Daly, Mr. Lucien E. Taylor, and Mr. Morris Studler. There will be music and dancing after the play, with refreshments in the lunch room. In addition to the regular dramatic committee for the year, consisting of Christine Hayes, chairman; Esther Lissner, Elizabeth Barry and William Graham, the producing force is augmented by the following: Warren Gould, Frank R. Harris, Minna Steinberg, Thomas Manning, and Francis P. Znotas.

Sub-committees have been appointed to take charge of the successive meetings of the Staff Club during the current year; they will make all arrangements for the meetings, will co-operate in carrying them out, and will serve as hosts for the evening. The Committee for the meeting of November 30 consists of Mr. Francis J. Hannigan, chairman; Miss Mary H. Daly, Miss Beatrice M. Flanagan, and Miss Margaret C. Lappen.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

Miss Maud M. Morse, chairman of the Relief Committee of the Benefit Association, requests that chiefs of departments and branches report as soon as possible the name and address of any employee who is ill.

The Secretary of the Association reports that Miss Mary A. McDonald, of the Issue Department, is suffering from a severe attack of pleurisy; Mr. Thomas J. Sexton, of the Engineering Department, is at the Carney Hospital recovering from a serious operation; and Miss Isabel E. Wetherald, Librarian of Mt. Bowdoin Reading Room, has been ill for some time.

Friday evening, January 6, 1922, is the date set for the Twelfth Night Party of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association. This is the Association's annual winter reunion. The Chateau, adjoining the Boston Opera House, has been secured for the evening. The floor is perfect. There will be the best jazz orchestra to be had in the city. For those who do not dance there will be cards, and entertainment interspersed between the dances—something for everybody, the committee hopes. Tickets will be on sale in December. Be sure to come.

The Committee on Pensions informs us that it is the intention of the Finance Commission to re-introduce the bill which failed of passage in the last session of the Legislature through an eleventh-hour objection of Governor Cox.

The bill will be substantially the same as that submitted last year, except in a few details, among which will be a provision to take care of such persons as became Boston employees through the annexation of Hyde Park. This suggestion was made to the Finance Commission through the Library Committee, when it was called to our attention that there were several such persons on our Staff.

News Notes on Government Publications

Edited by Edith Guerrier

Bulletin No. 19

November 15, 1921

Supplement to "Library Life," Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

INFORMATION ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

The Information File described in these pages a month ago is being organized as the result of a very real demand felt in the Information Office of the Boston Public Library.

The Library contains extensive information on the subject of unemployment, but it is scattered through a number of different departments, and much time must be spent in finding and sifting it. The first need, therefore, was for a list which would classify the material under appropriate headings; the second need was for a clipping file in which material pertinent to the present situation might be assembled.

Early in September a group of Radcliffe Alumnae offered their services during the unemployment crisis to Mayor Andrew J. Peters, who was then serving as a delegate to the Unemployment Conference at Washington. Mayor Peters, knowing the need for an information file on unemployment at the Public Library, started them to work on it immediately. Miss Jean Birdsall, a graduate student in the Department of History and Economics at Radcliffe College, took charge of the task of establishing this file. She was fortunate in getting the advice of several professors in the Departments of Government, Economics, and Social Ethics at Harvard University; she also received help from several business men who had tried certain remedies for unemployment in their own shops.

Though incomplete (like any file on a current subject, its completion can

only be a matter of growth), the file is so far developed and so logically organized that its value is no longer uncertain. Its usefulness, however, is limited to one section of the country, for though the file contains a large amount of material dealing with the unemployment situation in a general way, the emphasis of the collection has been placed upon the local aspects of the problem.

In going over material on the various cycles of unemployment, it becomes more and more evident that the thought on this subject has not changed from one generation to another. That is why time spent probing back into the literature on earlier periods of unemployment is practically wasted. The present can but summarize and urge again the obvious remedies.

It is the hope of the compilers that the work done in Boston may lead to the formation of similar files in other centres of industry, to the end of a nation-wide survey of the unemployment situation. Such a survey can be of two-fold use. It can assist those working to alleviate the unemployment problem; and it can be of permanent value in making evident the need of preventive measures against the recurrence of unemployment at every period of business depression.

ETHEL B. DU PONT, *Chairman,*
Publicity Committee,
Radcliffe Endowment Fund.

TYPES OF MATERIAL COLLECTED FOR THE FILE.

1. Bibliographies. Periodical literature and reference to periodical literature form the major part of this list. They have been selected from "The Readers' Guide," "The Engineering Index," the "Industrial Arts Index," and similar guides for 1920 and 1921.

2. References concerning the depressions of 1914-1915 and of 1907-1908.
3. References to the more recent books on the subject.
4. A file containing newspaper clippings and pamphlets of various kinds relating to the present period of unemployment.
5. Government material covering the volume and extent of unemployment.
6. Articles dealing with measures taken by various enlightened business firms in this locality, who wish to avert or alleviate unemployment by intelligent planning.
7. A complete series of press releases on the Unemployment Conference at Washington (valuable in showing the most recent thought of experts on this field).
8. Material on allied subjects.

TOPICAL OUTLINE.

- I. Unemployment.
- II. Statistics of unemployment.
- III. Types of unemployment.
- IV. Palliatives for unemployment:
 - a. Carefully controlled relief.
 - b. Special training under disciplinary conditions.
- V. Long-run remedies for unemployment in general:
 - a. Labor exchange.
 - b. Public works.
 - c. Permanent organization of all interested parties.
 - d. Recognition of facts by fuller statistical surveys; standing indices recording labor market from month to month.
 - e. Systematic action by individual employers.
 1. Part-time work.
 2. Manufacturing for stock in dull seasons.
 3. Specializing in out-of-season items and novelties in dull season.
 4. Non-seasonal orders.
 5. Repairs and additions to plant in dull season.
 6. Development of outdoor work to provide winter occupation.
 7. Arrangement of outdoor work so as to provide indoor operation for cold and stormy weather.
 8. Employment management and cost accounting with view to avoiding labor turnover.
 - f. Rapid adjustment of wage rates to existing economic conditions.
 - g. Unemployment insurance.

NOTES ON THE PUBLICATIONS.

CONGRESS.

Attention may be called to the following Senate and House documents

and reports, as possessing general interest:

House Document 115. Rate Reductions. Senate Report 275, Parts 1 and 2. Internal Revenue Bill of 1921. Senate Report 277, Parts 1 and 2. On the Election of the Senator from Michigan.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

The "Subject Index of Farmers' Bulletins now available for distribution" furnishes many a suggestion to the Branch Librarian seeking for suitable material on such subjects as poultry, rabbits, gardens and food values.

Farmers' Bulletin 553, "Pop Corn for the Home," contains several toothsome recipes.

Farmers' Bulletin 898, on "Turpentine, its Sources, Properties, Uses, Transportation and Marketing," is a useful pamphlet for the school collection, as a full description of the sources and manufacture of this important product is given. The half-tones make clear to the reader a number of points difficult to understand in the text.

Farmers' Bulletin 1219, "Floors and Floor Coverings," is a useful treatise on a perplexing problem. In addition to instructions on caring for the floors, formulas for paint and varnish are given.

The forehanded person can plan a wonderful vacation for next summer with the help of the "Handbook for Campers in the National Forests of California," issued by the Bureau of Forestry.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

Bureau of Standards Circular No 112, "Telephone Service," describes the telephone and its management in such a manner as to give a comprehensive understanding of those elements of the service which determine its quality. The volume is well illustrated and indexed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

Bureau of Education Bulletin 1920, No. 30, "State Laws Relating to Edu-

cation Enacted in 1918 and 1919," cites laws of 35 States dealing with public libraries.

Dr. Claxton, in the letter of transmittal prefixed to Bureau of Education Bulletin 1920, No. 39, entitled "Facilities for foreign students in American Colleges and Universities," thus explains its purpose and scope:

"The document shows the organization of American education with special reference to universities, colleges, and professional schools; states and explains admission requirements, with special reference to the needs of foreign students; and outlines the general and specific opportunities to be found at American institutions of higher education."

Bureau of Education Bulletin 1921, No. 17, "Educational Boards and Foundations, 1918-20," has a title which is misleading, as it does not contain descriptions of these organizations, but is confined to statements regarding the expenditure of their funds.

Circular No. 765 of the General Land Office lists the vacant public lands on July 1, 1921. The list includes land in 25 states, a total of 189,729,492 acres. Nevada leads with 52,742,711 acres, and Kansas ends the list with 3,213 acres.

The "Manual of First Aid Instruction for Miners," issued by the Bureau of Mines, is a revision of the American Red Cross "First Aid Textbook, miners' edition," and the Bureau of Mines "Advanced First Aid Instruction for Miners."

The accidents which happen to miners are to a large extent of the same nature as those which occur to other industrial workers, and the little manual is therefore of general interest, particularly in case of wounds, as the pictures of bandaging are unusually clear and complete. The book, which is of vest-pocket size, is well indexed.

DEPARTMENT OF THE NAVY.

The Hydrographic Office Manual No. 31, corrected to June 18, 1921, is

volume 2 of the set of three volumes in which are listed "lights, including time signals and radio compass stations, throughout the world."

Volume 1 is a list of lights in the East Indies and Pacific Islands and on the coasts of North and South America, excepting those of the United States. Volume 2 comprises lights on the south and east coasts of Asia and Africa and in the East Indies, Australia, Tasmania, and New Zealand corrected to June 18, 1921. Volume 3 contains lights on the West coasts of Africa and Europe, and those of the Mediterranean Sea, including the Adriatic and Black Seas and the Sea of Azov.

Lists of lights which safeguard United States waters are given in the following publications of the Bureau of Lighthouses in the Department of Commerce:

Atlantic and Gulf coasts of United States.
Pacific coast—United States, Canada, and Hawaiian and Samoan Islands.
Great Lakes—United States and Canada.
Upper Mississippi River and tributaries: 13th lighthouse district.
Ohio, Tennessee, Kanawha, and Monongahela Rivers: 14th lighthouse district.
Lower Mississippi River and tributaries: 15th lighthouse district.

"Activities of the Bureau of Yards and Docks, World War, 1917-1918," describes naval training camps, shipyards, submarine bases and radio stations throughout the United States. The volume is well illustrated and is provided with a 16-page index.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

"A Notarial Manual for Consular Officers, 1921," is useful to the person who wishes to know what may be expected of these officials. A table of fees for executing commissions is given on page 12.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

The "Manual for the Oil and Gas Industry under the Revenue Act of 1918," issued by the Internal Revenue Office, is designed primarily to assist taxpayers engaged in the oil and gas industries in correctly preparing Federal tax returns, but it is of equal

value to those who wish information on these industries. The contents include oil-well and oil-production statistics for the United States and Mexico, methods of reckoning depreciation and estimation of recoverable underground reserves of oil, and much other information of like nature.

"Municipal Ordinances, Rules and Regulations pertaining to Public Health, 1917 to 1919," Supplement No. 40 to the Public Health Reports, is the eighth in the series of compilations of municipal ordinances and regulations which have been issued by the Public Health Service. The series, which includes this bulletin, comprises city ordinances and regulations from January 1, 1910, to December 31, 1919.

MISCELLANEOUS GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

AMERICAN HISTORICAL ASSOCIATION.

Annual Report, 1918, Vol. 1, contains a list of the members, which serves as a fairly complete directory of well-known writers and teachers of history in this country. In this volume is a very valuable "Brief history of the sheep industry."

FEDERAL BOARD FOR VOCATIONAL EDUCATION.

Bulletin No. 71, Home Economics Series No. 6, "The Home Project, Its Use in Home-making Education," discusses the home project method as an important means of promoting purposeful activity on the part of girls and of developing vocational training in home economics.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

The "Report of the Federal Trade Commission on the Pacific Coast Petroleum Industry, Part I, Production, Ownership and Profits," is a useful addition to the material on petroleum. For other material on this subject see Geological Survey Press Releases and "Press Bulletin," numerous publications of the Bureau of Mines, "The

Federal Trade Information Service," "Business Conditions" and "The Index," all of which are kept on file in the Information Office.

SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.

The Annual Report of the Smithsonian Institution, 1919, has interesting articles on "Two types of southwestern cliff houses," on "The origin and beginnings of the Czechoslovak people," and on "The seventeen-year locust."

INTERESTING ARTICLES IN RECENT GOVERNMENT PERIODICALS.

- Federal Highway Aid Helps Solve Unemployment Problem. "Weekly News Letter," November 2.
- Development of Trade with Brazil. "Commerce Reports," November 14.
- American Chambers of Commerce in foreign countries. "Commerce Reports," November 7.
- The Greatest Rivers. "United States Geological Survey Press Bulletin," No. 478, October.
- Government Vocational University for Veterans. "School Life," November.
- The Care of Neuro-psychiatric Disabilities. "Public Health Reports," October 28.
- A Study of Industrial Absenteeism. "Monthly Labor Review," October.
- The 1921 International Balloon Race. "Air-Service News Letter," November 1.
- Some Aspects of Italy's War Finances. "Federal Reserve Bulletin," October.
- New Experimental Work begun by the Bureau of Public Roads. "Public Roads," October.
- Production of Liquid Air. "Bureau of Standards Technical News Bulletin," No. 55, November 9.
- A Lighthouse Built Ashore and Transported to its Site at a Saving of \$10,000. "Lighthouse Service Bulletin," October 1.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume I, No. 3

December 15, 1921

CONTENTS.

THE JEFFRIES POINT READING ROOM:		INFORMAL TALKS TO JUNIOR ASSISTANTS	32
ESTABLISHMENT	25	WESTERLY HALL	32
THE OPENING	26	NEWS ITEMS	33
WITH MISS MOORE IN FRANCE	26	WITH THE JUNIORS	34
THE LIFE OF EDWIN A. ABBEY	27	OUR NEIGHBOR LIBRARIES	35
THE BOOK OF THE FATHERLESS CHILDREN	28	ANNOUNCEMENTS	36
THOMAS F. BOYLE	29		
EDITORIAL	30		
CERTIFICATES FOR CLASS IN REFERENCE WORK	31		

SUPPLEMENT.

NEWS NOTES ON GOVERNMENT PUBLICATIONS, No. 20	*9-*12
---	--------

THE JEFFRIES POINT READING ROOM.

ESTABLISHMENT.

One of the unique things about the Jeffries Point Reading Room is the way in which it was established. Its foundation was laid by the Americanization Committee of the Boston Chamber of Commerce, as a result of its work among the Italian population of East Boston. Several districts in the city needed reading rooms, but in no other case was there such a definite plan, made after a careful survey, by a great representative organization which had the sentiment of the whole district thoroughly with it. This seemed to put Jeffries Point in a class by itself.

The Chamber of Commerce in its Americanization work aims chiefly at giving to foreign-born residents a better knowledge of our language and a wider understanding of our institutions; it aims also to promote good feeling among the various nationalities of Boston, besides serving the community in various minor ways. The work of the Committee in East Boston was carried on largely by means of classes in English and civics for adults,

and story hours for children. The agent of the Committee had a desk in the lecture hall of the East Boston Branch, where advice on naturalization was given. Through this use of the Branch as headquarters the Library helped in the work of the Americanization Committee for some months; when the Committee wished to transfer its efforts to other sections of the City, they considered the Library their natural successor in the Jeffries Point district, where most of the people are of Italian blood.

The Chamber secured the approval of the Mayor and later of the Trustees of the Library. The Mayor and Council appropriated \$4,000 for equipment and maintenance for the remainder of the year, and the Jeffries Point Reading Room became a reality. The site, on the ground floor at 195 Webster Street, East Boston, was the eighth looked at by the Trustees, the Librarian, and representatives of the Americanization Committee.

The petition which this Committee presented to the Mayor, which is now in the files of the Library, bears the names of representatives of practically every organization in East Boston. The individual names are from all classes: pastors, teachers, physicians,

nurses, judges, legislators, social workers, lawyers, and prominent citizens of every kind. With the petition were presented numerous letters from school children, which greatly interested the Mayor.

The history of the founding of this Reading Room illustrates forcibly one of the first duties of the Boston Public Library, that of helping to make good citizens. It also shows the value of united work on the part of the Library and the community.

L. L. W.

THE OPENING.

Webster defines *reading-room* as "a room appropriated to reading." By logic then: Jeffries Point is a reading-room; therefore Jeffries Point is a room appropriated to reading. Up to date this conclusion is the statement of an unattained ideal. Perhaps it is the thing which makes the job of librarian so fascinating. There are so many possibilities for a really big achievement that one cannot help expanding at the thought of it.

The new Reading Room was opened on October 15. It seems only a few days past, so quickly has the time gone. And yet the events that have occurred in that short time would seem to require many weeks. The opening was a very pleasant occasion, attended in the main by children, who entered on condition that their hands should be clean. They listened with rapt attention to speeches made by Mr. Belden, the Rev. Dr. Mann, Father Barry, and Major Tully of the Chamber of Commerce, all of whom showed great consideration for their youthful audience in nobly making short and pleasant speeches.

The atmosphere of the opening was one of friendliness and warm-heartedness. An acquaintance recounted a conversation heard in a neighborhood store that evening as follows: "Been to the new library? Awful nice teacher, but you gotta have clean hands!" "Chee, ain't they got the corkin' fairy tales! Oh, what corks!" With sadness I reflect that at this moment we haven't one of those "corks" left—the fairy tale case is empty! And my

dreams at night are of gilded halls in whose cases are nothing but fairy tales and easy books, so easy to see and grasp, and my grateful little Italian friends are there going into rhapsodies of joy, unrepressed, with no "teacher" to say to them, "Now sit down quietly with a book and read a page or two, so that you can tell if you like it, because of course you can't tell by just feeling it, can you?"

A visitor to our Reading Room didn't think us a very significant library, because, he said, "your shelves are empty! You have no books." "Ah," said I, "but we are a very superior library. All our books are in circulation." I didn't add that I longed for the day when we should have a few more than are at present allotted to our shelves.

Miss Flanagan, Librarian of the Neponset Reading Room, who was assigned to help me get the new machinery in motion, has been an excellent teacher and a most delightfully pleasant person to work with. I hope that as her pupil I shall do her honor in what is to come. Miss Olivier, my assistant, is a ray of sunshine with a "charging-desk personality"; she is a devoted worker, as are my extra-service people, Miss Mercurio and Miss De Santis. And we do not have a dull moment, you may be sure.

M. di B.

WITH MISS MOORE IN FRANCE.

Miss Annie Carroll Moore, Supervisor of Work with Children in the New York Public Library, addressed the members of the staff in the Staff Lecture Room on Tuesday, November 29. Miss Moore recently spent some three months in Europe, visiting the libraries established by the American Committee for Devastated France.

She told first of her visit to the American Library in Paris, which is in a charming old house furnished by the American Committee. The nucleus of this collection is the supply of books sent to France for our soldiers and sailors, for whom the library was first opened. It is now used widely by the English-speaking residents of Paris;

the French, too, and the newspaper men are beginning to appreciate its existence.

Miss Moore next visited Soissons, where the American Committee has established a "barrack" library and is doing splendid work, especially with children, who come in eager crowds. She was deeply touched by the universal eagerness for color and beauty since the war, which finds expression in the window-boxes of the library, and in the flower-gardens everywhere—even on the roofs of the sod-houses. The library at Soissons is the centre of a system of travelling libraries, sent out in vans to the country schools of the district; Miss Moore went about among these schools with the public health nurses supported by the Committee, and described the courage and cheerfulness of the schoolmasters who are devotedly taking up their work in barracks. All of the library work is under the charge of American attendants, with French assistants. Miss Moore brought home many artistic photographs of the Soissons library; those showing the children in their room were especially "fetching."

In England Miss Moore visited a number of children's libraries, and described the interesting library that is being established at 13 Johnson Street, Somers Town, London, N.W., where Dickens lived as a boy. It is to be called the "David Copperfield Library." The project has the support of many of England's educators, and a fund is being raised by the head of the Magdalen College Settlement to furnish and equip the house. American publishers are contributing a representative collection of American children's books, and the New York Public Library is also sending a gift. H. S.

THE LIFE OF EDWIN A. ABBEY.

The long-awaited life of Edwin A. Abbey, by E. V. Lucas, has just appeared and is now in the Fine Arts Department. It is in two large octavo volumes, but with continuous paging and a single index, which lead one to

hope for a cheaper single-volume edition at some future date.

It is now several years since Mr. Lucas received from Mrs. Abbey the commission to write the book. She has furnished many letters and other material, especially in regard to the later period of her husband's life. The author was for some time in constant correspondence with many people in this country in regard to Abbey's early days in Philadelphia and New York. Some of this material was obtained in the Boston Public Library. The book has been actually in print since 1919, but the condition of the publishing market did not warrant its issue earlier.

Naturally this authorised life has a very special interest for all of us, and we turn at once to the chapter in which is told for the first time the whole story of the commission for the decorations in the Delivery Room. Not many of us have known that at the time the order was given, the artist had done but two paintings in oil, and it was only the far vision of men like McKim and Sargent which brought about the choice of Mr. Abbey.

Infinite time and labor went into the study of the subject and the arrangement of costumes and accessories. As Mr. Lucas happily phrases it, "he read every variant of the legend until, a master of all, he was so saturated with it as to be able to fuse the versions and create a new one of his own, capable of being divided into the requisite number of panels." Mr. Lucas gives many interesting details regarding the execution of the Grail decorations, in the great studio, "the largest in England," at Morgan Hall, Gloucestershire, where Abbey and Sargent worked side by side on the paintings which were to glorify this Library.

The illustrations, with the exception of those in the text, were selected by Mr. Sargent. They include examples of all Abbey's periods and manners, from the earliest sketches for *Harper's* to the great series of decorations at Harrisburg; among them are six plates illustrating the Grail paintings, two of them from preliminary sketches.

H. W. M.

THE BOOK OF THE FATHER- LESS CHILDREN.

For the past four weeks the collection known as "The Fatherless Children of France—their Book," has been shown in the Exhibition Room of the Library. This collection, described by "The Listener" of the *Boston Transcript* as "the sentimental roll-call of the great people of the Allied countries and America," numbers among its treasures some 345 autographs, photographs, original drawings, paintings and etchings brought together during the years 1917 to 1919. They are for the most part written or drawn on parchment sheets of uniform size, which were sent to the persons invited to contribute; a wonderful case of richly tooled leather has been made for these sheets by Miss Mary C. Sears of Boston. The contributors are "the chosen of the Allied nations," grouped in the following classes: artists; authors; rulers; statesmen; members of cabinets; commanders of the Allied armies and navies; heroes of great deeds or dramatic events, like Colonel Whittlesey; heads of colleges; members of the French Academy; representatives of national organizations, such as the Red Cross and the American Federation of Labor; the great outstanding figures who are in a class by themselves,—King Albert of Belgium, Cardinal Mercier, Theodore Roosevelt, Marshal Foch, Herbert Hoover; finally the Aces, those young warriors of the air who represented the romance of the war. If for no other reason, the collection is of extraordinary interest for the study of handwriting as an index to character.

It was to Mrs. David J. Johnson, a Boston woman who had been a speaker for the Society of the Fatherless Children of France, and the poet, Edwin Lee Markham, that the idea of the collection in its present form first suggested itself. A little book with the names of a few celebrities had already been begun, with a view to selling it to swell the funds of the Society. Then came the thought, why not make it a

mammoth collection, worth a great sum? It was not possible to complete the work before the war was ended, and the original plan of selling the collection as a whole at that time was of necessity abandoned. Later the question of selling it piece by piece arose, but at the sale in New York in February, 1921, where the collection was offered in this way, Mrs. Johnson, with the co-operation of a relative, was enabled to purchase the "book" as a whole. She holds it "in trust for the orphans of France."

Among the statesmen who contributed their share in behalf of the Fatherless Children, in addition to Roosevelt and Albert of Belgium, are Wilson, Poincaré, Masaryk, Venizelos, Lloyd George, Millerand, Balfour, and Viscount Bryce, who wrote: "In the summer of 1914 the spirit of Sin and Strife was let loose upon the Earth like a destroying whirlwind . . . The time must come when a knowledge of the true source of these calamities will, even where hatred is now strongest, enlighten men's minds and touch their hearts. May that time come soon."

There are the leaders of the fighting forces; first Foch, who wrote, "The orphans of the war are worthy of the greatest interest, for the past which they recall, and for the future which they are assured by the example of their fathers. I applaud with all my heart the efforts of a work which is in aid of their lives." Then follow contributions from Joffre, Pershing, Roberts, Diaz, Allenby, Edwards, Wood and Jellicoe, and from the aviators, Guynemer, Lufbery, Chapman, and Prince.

Among the men of letters are Rupert Brooke, Robert Bridges, Kipling, Joyce Kilmer, Chesterton, Tagore, Alan Seeger, Pierre Loti, and Maeterlinck, from whom came the following: ". . . the living and the dead are but moments scarcely different, of an existence one and infinite, and form but one self-same immortal family. They are not under the clod, in the hollow of their tombs, but in the recesses of our hearts where all that they were will 'carry on.' They live in us as we die in them. They see us, they hear us,

at closer range than when they were in our arms. Let us be watchful, then, that they see but acts and hear but words worthy of them." In the world of art are found Rodin, Nomellini, with the original drawing for "The Victory of the Piave," Raemakers, Faivre, who gave the original charcoal sketch of the head of the Poilu depicted in the famous war poster "On les aura," Sargent, Ralph Adams Cram, Ellen Terry, Galli-Curci, Caruso. There is a letter from Colonel Whittlesey and a signed photograph from Cardinal Mercier.

How the individual contributions were acquired is, of course, a romance in itself. The autograph letter of Victor Hugo was given by Mme. Clemenceau. Tagore, the poet of India, sent with his own poem a sketch by his cousin, an artist of the same name. The artist Monet signed his letter on what was thought to be his death bed. Some communications, though not many, were lost through the hazards of submarine warfare. Some were censored. Many of the French sketches, brought with difficulty from the battle front where the artists were at work, were accompanied by letters with fragments of anecdotes of those days in Paris when, with dread of the enemy's approach in every heart, mines for the voluntary destruction of valuables were sown broadcast in the city. One man, writing of the art treasures that were being hurriedly concealed underground, voiced the feeling of the Parisians with: "The cursed Boches will never touch these treasures, because Paris will vomit them from her ruins."

Among the names of local interest are the signed photograph of Lufbery, the only one in existence, given by his sister. "He gave his life for them," she said, "It is not too much for me to give his photograph for the children of France." That of Alan Seeger, the only one outside the Harvard Library, was given by Mrs. Seeger. The photograph of Lord Roberts, with his signature, was the gift of his daughter, Lady Roberts.

The reaction to the appeal made in behalf of the Fatherless Children varied with the individual. Generally speak-

ing, great persons are easily approachable in proportion to their greatness. Foch, Cardinal Mercier, Allenby, on the eve of his victory in Palestine, were ready to respond. Not so General Joffre, who would not give his autograph to anybody, but finally succumbed to "pressure." Through Brand Whitlock came the signed photograph of King Albert, but the first appeal to Mr. Asquith brought forth only a letter signed by his secretary. A personal friend was able to get the desired autograph afterwards. A few expressed their willingness to reply if supplied with an idea of what was wanted. Even the great Dr. Alexis Carrel, the originator of a now famous treatment for war wounds, wrote that he was not a man of words.

The bringing together of this collection, historic and artistic, in behalf of the Fatherless Children of France, is an achievement worthy of its object,—in the words of Venizelos, "a magnificent task."

The collection goes from our Library to that of Harvard University, where it will be exhibited for a number of weeks.

C. H.

THOMAS F. BOYLE.

Mr. Boyle was a very active member a Trustee of the Library, died on November 17, at the age of 60 years. Mr. Boyle was a prominent leather merchant of Boston, the city of his birth. He was appointed to the Board of Trustees in 1902; he served two full terms, the last four years as Vice President of the Board, retiring in 1912, when he was appointed a member of the Massachusetts Civil Service Commission. During his term of office on the Commission, he was elected President of the National Assembly of Civil Service Commissions, and later served on the Massachusetts Industrial Accident Board.

Mr Boyle was a very active member of the Library Board; he was a friend of the employees, and kept up his interest in them to the end of his life.

O. F.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of fifteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. I, No. 3.

Dec. 15, 1921

LIBRARY LIFE extends to every member of the staff its hearty good wishes for a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year!

LUX OMNIUM CIVIUM.

Over the main entrance to the Library is carved the seal of the institution, with the motto, "Lux Omnium Civium." To be the "Light of all the citizens" is the function of the Library, early declared by its Trustees and never challenged.

How do we realize this noble ideal of the founders, thus set forth in stone, to be read by all who come? "A city that is set on a hill cannot be hid." The people look to the Library for light; and it is we of the staff who must give it.

The library worker must be "all things to all." No other branch of the public service has to deal with so varied a clientele; no other group of city employees is brought into such intimate relations with all sorts and conditions of people. We are set for a light to all the citizens.

It is not an easy task, or an easy life. It demands — we have all learned this — qualities of character, no less than of intellect. It means evenness of temper and self-control; it means patience, and a wholly democratic attitude of mind; it means alertness, even when we are fagged; it means good humor, even when we are worn. The people who come to us are sometimes tired or dyspeptic or sensitive, and show it; but we are proud to be

servants of the public, and there is no finer expression of pride or of service than invincible courtesy.

From time to time some visitor to the Library goes away dissatisfied; it is inevitable that this should be the case, among the thousands who come and go, day by day. By some accident or fault — it may be his own fault, it may be the attendant's, it may be a defect in the library machinery — he has failed to make connections, and leaves the Library feeling that for him the light has failed of its effect. None of us — readers or librarians — are, unfortunately, always at our best; and when either side fails in its part, it is human nature to blame the other party; half the time the blame will be deserved, half the time it will be misplaced.

How shall we answer criticism, when it comes? By more service — that is, for the public servant, the only answer. Defence is futile. The duty of the lighthouse is to shine. Let us polish our lamps!

MECHANICS.

The inventive mind of our Library printer has devised a plan by which every contributor to LIBRARY LIFE can assist in the economical printing of his own article.

Each column of this paper consists of 56 lines; each line of this size of type will contain an average of 38 characters (letters and spaces.) Words differ in length; the space filled by 500 words will vary with the style of the author. Words, too, have to be counted; but every typewriter is constructed so as to count letters mechanically. Set the margin stops of your typewriter 38 spaces apart, and the typewritten lines will correspond to the printed lines in LIBRARY LIFE. Count the lines, and you can see exactly how much space your article will fill. Finally, typewrite your column in the middle of the paper, and you will have done your utmost to assist the editors and the printer.

How will this help? In the first place, printing from typewritten manu-

script is far more economical than from that written by hand. It does not take so long to decipher the copy, and errors are less likely to occur. Second, the narrow column in the middle of the sheet makes correction easy for the editor and clear to the printer. Third, the adjustment of the line-length to the width of the column of print makes it possible to calculate in advance the space which an article will fill, and thus to minimize waste in printing. The "dummy," in which the pages of the paper are "made up," can be constructed from the typewritten copy before it goes into the printer's hands. Every one of these points means an economy of time and labor for both editors and printers.

We count, then, on your help. Use a typewriter; set your margin stops 38 spaces apart; write approximately the number of lines asked for; place the column in the middle of your sheet. LIBRARY LIFE will be grateful to every contributor who follows these suggestions.

Mr. Lee's article on "Groups of Special Libraries in Boston and Vicinity" should be read by every member of the staff who does reference work of any sort. It suggests a wealth of material supplementing that of our own Library in many special fields, which is at our disposal, with the aid of the telephone. The list should be used in connection with the Directory to which it refers. We have scores of good neighbors; why not get acquainted?

Do not fail to see the exhibition of "Pictorial Possibilities of Boston" in the Exhibition Room of the Central Library. It is a revelation of the beauty—often unsuspected—amidst which we live.

The historical sketch of Westery Hall was written at the request of Miss Morse by Mr. C. M. Seaver, an old resident of West Roxbury.

The Library has recently bought from the American Library Association, for distribution to parents and other interested people, an edition of the attractive list of Children's Books for Christmas Presents, issued by the Association this fall. This has been supplemented by a Christmas exhibition of the Children's books of the year, in the Teachers' Reference Room. No one in Boston need be at a loss for assistance in selecting his Christmas gifts.

Then, too, when in doubt, try the Post-Card Counter (see page 36).

CERTIFICATES FOR CLASS IN REFERENCE WORK.

Certificates, signed by the President of the Board of Trustees, the Director of the Library School of Simmons College, and the Librarian, have been issued to the following members of the staff who took and passed with credit, during the year 1920-21, the course offered at the Central Library in Reference Work:

Amelia Rosemary Brady, Hyde Park Branch.
Margaret Augusta Calnan, South Boston Branch.
Amy Marcy Eaton, Roxbury Branch.
Margaret Cecilia Lappen, West End Branch.
Anna Gertrude Lynch, Dorchester Branch.
Anna Louise Manning, Children's Department.
Helen Rubina Needham, West End Branch.
Florence Eugenia McManus, Brighton Branch.
Ellen Catherine McShane, South End Branch.
Edith Frances Pendleton, Andrew Square Reading Room.
Annie Reis, Codman Square Branch.
Theodora Barbara Scoff, Tyler Street Reading Room.
Lisette Tanck, Warren Street Branch.
Virginia Mary Tint, Boylston Station Reading Room.
Anna Eleanor Tobin, Mt. Pleasant Reading Room.

INFORMAL TALKS TO JUNIOR ASSISTANTS.

A course of informal lectures to the younger employees of the Library has been arranged by a Committee appointed by the Librarian, consisting of Miss Jordan, Miss Carrie L. Morse, Miss Margaret Sheridan, and Messrs. Chase, Chenery and Fleischner. These talks will be given on Thursdays at 9.30 a.m., from January 5 to April 20.

The course is novel, inasmuch as it does not aim to give formal instruction. It consists rather of homely and interesting talks by successful librarians on their work in other libraries, showing the ambitious and persistent young assistant a sure way to recognition and advancement.

Every junior that can possibly be spared is urged to attend at least some of these lectures; no demerit marks will be given for non-attendance, but those who show a consistent interest will be given recognition in their library standing.

No examination will be required, but as an incentive to take the experiment seriously, and in the hope of bringing out unrecognized abilities among the younger members of the staff, the following prizes are offered to all assistants under twenty-one years of age:

1. A prize of a book will be given each month for the best paper on the addresses of that month.
2. At the end of the course two money prizes, of \$15 and \$10 respectively, will be given for the best two papers on the entire course.

The programme arranged is as follows:

- January 5. The library assistant in the eyes of the public. Mr. George H. Tripp, Free Public Library, New Bedford.
- January 12. How I became a librarian. Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell, Social Service Library, Boston.
- January 19. What is a librarian? Mr. George H. Evans, Somerville Public Library.
- January 26. Round Table discussion of preceding talks.
- February 2. The working child and the library. Miss Louise C. Keyes, Boston Continuation School.

- February 9. The ethics of a librarian. Mr. Truman R. Temple, Thomas Crane Free Library, Quincy.
- February 16. Amenities of a children's librarian. Mrs. Mary E. Root, Providence Public Library.
- February 23. Round Table discussion of preceding talks.
- March 2. Loyalty: an essential trait. Mr. Harold T. Dougherty, Newton Free Library.
- March 9. What one can get from a Summer library course. Miss Harriet E. Howe, Simmons College Library School, Boston.
- March 16. The library assistant as a reader. Mr. Robert K. Shaw, Worcester Public Library.
- March 23. Round Table discussion of preceding talks.
- March 30. How I grew up in the Boston Public Library.
- April 6. The apprentice system in Springfield. Mr. Hiller C. Wellman, City Library Association, Springfield.
- April 20. Your future in the library profession; a summary and a vision. Mr. Charles F. D. Belden, Boston Public Library.
- April 27. Round Table discussion of preceding talks.

WESTERLY HALL.

In a short time the West Roxbury Branch Library is to be moved to the beautiful new building erected by the city for its occupancy. As Westerly Hall has long been its location, as well as that of its predecessor, the West Roxbury Free Library, a few words concerning the history of this building may not be amiss at this time.

Erected more than eighty years ago, just where it now stands, it was first used principally for a school, to replace the old and small building which long stood just north of the present building, and which was recently moved to the rear, to make room for the new Library building. In its early years, and for many years after, until Anawan Hall was built in 1875, Westerly Hall was the only place at this end of the town of West Roxbury available for caucuses, lectures, concerts, or any kind of public entertainment. Later there came dancing schools, spelling bees, etc., and all through the sixties and seventies, during the winter season, there were held dancing parties which were attended by old and young, not only from this community, but

from Dedham and Jamaica Plain. Some of our older residents will remember these dancing parties with interest and pleasure. But for thirty years or more, Westerly Hall has been used largely for the Branch Library, a kindergarten, and a precinct voting place.

In its earlier years, an addition of thirty feet was built out towards Centre Street, but with this exception the building stands now as originally built, and it is pleasing to know that it is now owned by the American Legion, to whom it was recently sold for a consideration of One Dollar. It will be moved across the street, and used largely for patriotic and social purposes.

C. M. SEAVER.

NEWS ITEMS.

During the past summer extensive repairs were made on the outside of the West End Branch building, under the direction of Fox & Gale, Architects. The grounds were given special attention, under the supervision of the Park Department. All the wood and iron work of the building was repaired and painted, and the fences put in good order.

The building, always beautiful, even in its shabbiness, is now conspicuously so, because of the fresh white paint, which, in contrast to the red bricks of the building, brings out the splendid architectural lines.

In the "Little Book for Immigrants," published by the Mayor's Committee on Americanization, is included a fine full-page illustration of the West End Library.

Mr. John Murdoch, of the Catalogue Department, celebrated the 25th anniversary of his connection with the Library on November 16.

Miss Jeannette M. Shutt was transferred on November 25 from the Periodical Department to the South Boston Branch, where she will serve as a general assistant.

Mr. Belden gave a lecture on "The Boston Public Library and some of its Problems" before the Hyde Park Current Events Club on November 30th.

Miss Florence Richards has been absent for some time on account of the serious illness of her mother, now ninety-three years old.

Miss Dorothy C. Seligman, formerly of the Fine Arts Department, who spent the past summer in England, left the Library on November 15 to take a position of responsibility in the Print Department of the Museum of Fine Arts.

A song written by Mr. John J. O'Brien of the Bindery Department, author of the famous "Battering Babe," had the distinction of being sung daily at the rallies of both the leading candidates in the recent municipal campaign, one side using the original song, the other a parody.

Miss Alice M. Robinson, formerly Librarian of the West End Branch, was the guest of honor at a luncheon given by the Branch Librarians at the Women's City Club, Wednesday, November 23, 1921.

The series of Brief Reading Lists, which is under the general care of the Catalogue Department, has received a timely and useful contribution from the Children's Room, a list of titles relating to Christmas, compiled by Miss Mary C. Toy.

The Library has recently subscribed to the Elliott Service, which supplies daily pictures illustrating current events. A frame has been placed in the vestibule of the Copley Square building, in which is displayed each day a large photograph of some significant occurrence, together with a pithy message from a person of prominence, accompanied by his portrait.

With the Juniors

Edited by Francis P. Znotas

Several junior members of the regular staff have called attention to the fact that this page seems to consider only the interests of the "extra" boys on the evening force. For the proper representation of all the junior assistants, two more representatives are needed, one for the girls and one for the boys of the regular day staff. Any one who is willing to volunteer for either of these positions is asked to write the editor a note to that effect, and to leave it with an attendant in the Children's Room. If any member of the regular staff wishes to suggest some one else as a representative, he or she is also asked to leave a written nomination in the Children's Room. Every junior member of the regular staff should either volunteer or suggest the name of some one else as a representative.

As in the previous months, two meetings were held in the Boys' Lunch Room in November. The results of the discussions were as follows:

The boys who work until ten o'clock evenings should indicate the fact on the signing block themselves rather than wait for the officer in charge to do it.

The stack attendants should make sure that they send up the right book. It is worth while to take a second or two to compare the slip and the number in the book.

It would be helpful if the attendants in the Open-Shelf Room would arrange their indicator cards in numerical order before sending them up to the indicator.

Attention was called to the fact that in many cases the signs placed on the piers in the stacks to indicate the numbers in the respective alcoves are wrong.

Mr. Blaisdell declared that the idea of taking turns in running slips is a mistake. When a number of slips come to a stack, all the attendants in that stack should help in getting the books.

The stack attendants should always watch the stations and arrange numerically the returned books as they come from the Issue Department.

At the second meeting, Mr. Blaisdell gave an interesting talk on the method of arranging the books in the old building, where the Colonial Theatre now stands. He took for example the number 2349.67. Stating that each figure stood for something, he went on to prove it. The 23 meant that the book called for was in the twenty-third alcove; this number also represented the classification. The 4 showed that the book was in the fourth range. The 9 was the ninth shelf, and the 67 meant that it was the sixty-seventh book. Hence 2349.67 indicated that the book called for was in the twenty-third alcove, fourth range, and sixty-seventh book on the ninth shelf.

QUESTION BOX.

In a book was seen, after the number, "Bd. 1." What does that mean?

Volume one. "Bd." is an abbreviation for the German word "Band," meaning a volume.

If a home slip calls for a starred book should the stack attendant send it up?

Yes, unless there is another number on the slip; in that case send up the second book.

What rating does a boy on the evening and Sunday force get if he passes the Grade C examination?

The Grade E examination admits a boy to the extra force. If he passes a Grade C examination, he does not qualify for a higher position. A boy who works faithfully gets his promotion when circumstances permit, whether he passes the higher examination or not.

A lady walked to the book case and inquired of the attendant, "Is this the lost office?"

Our Neighbor Libraries

GROUPS OF SPECIAL LIBRARIES IN BOSTON AND VICINITY.

The second edition of the "Directory of Special Libraries in Boston and Vicinity," which was compiled last June and published by the City of Boston, is an exceedingly handy booklet, covering 117 libraries, large and small. There are two indexes; that of librarians hardly needs comment, but the "Subject Index" should be considered with reference to the proposed new edition of the Directory. The fact that this index was made from returns to a questionnaire, without much addition from the editors' knowledge of the scope of the libraries in question, makes it readily evident that a subsequent index should be based on investigation and study, such as were not practicable for the first two editions.

It has seemed desirable to attempt in the meantime a rough grouping of the libraries by subjects, as a first step toward the expansion of the subject index. The following groups, referring to the libraries by the numbers under which they are listed in the Directory, may prove a useful table of contents to the Directory as it stands. This grouping is compiled from the present index, *plus* a personal knowledge of some of the libraries to which the index hardly does justice. The initial figure in each case gives the number of libraries in the group.

- 6 Academic—13, 21, 29, 99, 103, 115.
- 6 Advertising—20, 32, 97, 101, 102, 107.
- 4 Agriculture—3, 44, 74, 80.
- 11 Banking—6, 33, 38, 67, 68, 86, 90, 95, 100, 102, 106.
- 9 Business—6, 12, 20, 32, 33, 51, 90, 103, 106.
- 7 Chemistry—3, 45, 60, 69, 77, 81, 112.
- 11 Economics—6, 32, 38, 71, 81, 86, 103, 105, 108, 109, 116.
- 10 Engineering—1, 18, 31, 34, 60, 70, 81, 87, 106, 108.
- 7 History—11, 29, 38, 76, 79, 99, 110.
- 8 Industrial Management—1, 5, 32, 71, 102, 106, 109, 116.
- 4 Legal—22, 53, 76, 88.
- 5 Medical—17, 23, 46, 54, 111.
- 4 Municipal—9, 43, 76, 109.
- 8 Religion—13, 24, 25, 29, 36, 39, 58, 83.
- 4 Science (General)—2, 19, 27, 81.
- 5 Social Work—24, 36, 69, 105, 109.
- 5 Utilities—14, 30, 60, 65, 73.
- 3 Women in Industry—99, 103, 116.

To the above should be added Fine Arts (including City Planning, Landscape Architecture, and Music, as well as Painting and Sculpture), Insurance, Languages, Library Practice, Manufacture, Public Health, Textiles, etc., which have too many ramifications or are too thinly represented in the Directory to note as groups. Of course the large general libraries, like those of Harvard University, the Boston Athenaeum, and the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, are too broad in their scope to be fully covered in the groups above. Number 10 of the Directory is not included in this attempt at grouping. It is the list number of the Boston Public Library, which is well equipped with material on almost all the subjects mentioned. This is also true, on a smaller scale, of the other public libraries of Greater Boston.

G. W. L.

The November meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston was held on the 15th at the New England Historic Genealogical Society. Mr. Chapin, the President, conducted the business meeting. It was voted that, beginning with January, 1922, the Association would meet regularly on the fourth Monday of each month.

The subject for the evening was "Resources of Boston in History, Travel and Maps"; there were four speakers, as announced last month.

The Association will hold its December meeting on Tuesday, the 20th, in the Library building of the Edison Electric Illuminating Company of Boston, 1165 Massachusetts Avenue, near Edward Everett Square. The evening is to be given over to a discussion of Science, Engineering and Technology resources in the libraries of Boston. Mr. William F. Jacob, Librarian of the General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y., will speak on the library system of that company. This promises to be a most interesting and instructive evening, and a large attendance is desired. An opportunity will be given to inspect the Library of the Edison plant.

Announcements

Beginning Friday morning, January 5, at 9.30, Professor Robert E. Rogers, A.M., of the departments of English and History in the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, will give, in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library, a course of twenty lessons on the History of English Literature.

This course, which is offered by the State Division of University Extension, has been arranged primarily with a view to the needs of Library assistants; the class will meet weekly, on Fridays at 9.30 a.m.

STAFF CLUB.

The Staff Club gave its second dramatic performance on the evening of November 30, in the Staff Lecture Room of the Library. A friendly audience assembled to see Miss Prim, Miss Daly, Mr. Taylor, and Mr. Studler unravel the complications of "A Wire Entanglement"; the love-making by telephone was exceedingly diverting. In addition to the regular dramatic committee and its aides, the Club had the assistance of a volunteer orchestra made up of Miss Hazlewood, piano, Mr. Clegg, violin, and Mr. Paul Reardon, clarinet. Mr. Arthur Scena contributed three violin solos.

Much credit belongs to the many people in the Library who helped to mount the play; the dramatic committee wishes to express its special gratitude to Mr. Niederauer and the members of the carpenter and electrical force. Mr. Hannigan, with his assisting committee, was the soul of hospitality. There was dancing after the play.

At the meeting of the Club to be held on Thursday evening, December 29, Mr. Olin Downes, musical critic of the *Boston Post*, will give a talk on Modern Music, illustrated by piano solos. In the course of the evening Mr. and Mrs. John J. Cronan will tell Christmas stories. There will be refreshments and dancing, as usual. The committee for the evening consists of

Miss Edith Guerrier, chairman; Miss Elsie M. Coolidge, Miss Marion A. McCarthy, and Mr. Lucien E. Taylor.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

Remember the Benefit Association's Twelfth Night Party at The Chateau on Friday evening, January 6. There will be dancing, entertainment and whist. Miss Mabel L. Benjamin will sing, and members of the Boston Branch of the English Folk-Dancing Society will give an exhibition dance. Come and be sociable. The price of tickets is fifty-five cents. It is hoped that every member of the Association will buy at least one ticket and sell as many as possible to personal friends.

The next regular meeting of the Association will be held in the Lecture Hall on Tuesday, January 3, 1922, at 9 a. m. If a quorum is present, the meeting will be called to order promptly at 9 o'clock.

The Secretary of the Association reports that Mr. Thomas J. O'Neil, janitor at the Brighton Branch, is suffering from a shock; and that Mrs. Mary F. Mullen, Matron at the Central Library, has had a serious breakdown. Miss Isabel Finkleman and Miss Ruth von Schoppe have returned to the Library after short periods of illness. Mr. Thomas J. Sexton, we are glad to say, is rapidly recovering after his operation.

FROM THE POST-CARD COMMITTEE

Do you wish to send a little Christmas gift really artistic and worth while? Visit the post-card counter and ask to see some of the hand-colored reproductions of the paintings and decorations.

Why worry about going to art stores and down-town dealers when such gems from our own building may be had right here? Prices are reasonable and a liberal discount is allowed to all employees of the Library.

News Notes

on

Government Publications

Edited by Edith Guerrier

Bulletin No. 20

December 15, 1921

Supplement to "Library Life," Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

BUSINESS INFORMATION ON LATIN AMERICA.

Frequent requests for material on Latin-American business conditions have led to the assembling of a small collection of publications issued by the United States Government and by certain well-known business firms.

Unless otherwise stated, the material listed will be found in the Information Office.

It is fully realized that this collection of material is far short of being an adequate one, and suggestions of desirable additions to the file will be heartily welcomed.

PERIODICAL PUBLICATIONS.

- Pan American Bulletin. (Periodical Room)
- Pan American Magazine. (Periodical Room)
- South American Weekly Export Bulletin. (Statistical Department)
- Daily Commerce Reports. U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. (Frequent articles on Latin-American countries.)
- Pan American Review.
- American Export Monthly.
- Brazilian Business.
- Argentine American Chamber of Commerce: Weekly Mimeographed Sheet.
- Monthly Circular issued by Ernesto Tornquist & Co.
- Comercio Ecuatoriano.
- Monthly Summary of Foreign Commerce of the United States. U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. (Gives exports and imports.)

BIBLIOGRAPHIES AND INDEXES.

- Practical Helps to Exporters series. R. G. Dun & Co., N. Y.
- No. 2. Parcel Post Extensions.
- No. 15. Routes through Colombia.
- No. 20. International Cable Facilities.

- Brief Reading List, No. 4, June, 1918. Boston Public Library. A selected list of books on the commercial relations of South America.
- List of Books on Latin American History and Description in the Columbus Memorial Library. International Bureau of the American Republics. 1909.
- List of Publications Issued and Distributed by the Pan American Union. Pan American Union. 1920.
- Reference List on Commerce, Exporting and Importing. Pan American Union.
- List of References on Lumber Markets and Timber Resources of Latin America. U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. 1920.
- Bibliography of the Climate of South America. Supplement No. 18, Monthly Weather Review, October 15, 1921. U. S. Weather Bureau.
- Indexes to Daily Commerce Reports.
- Indexes to Pan American Bulletin. (Periodical Room)
- Indexes to Pan American Magazine. (Periodical Room)

GENERAL REFERENCE MATERIAL.

- Anglo-South American Handbook. T. Fisher Unwin, London. 1921. (Bates Hall)
- Commercial Travelers' Guide to Latin America, with Maps. U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce. 1920.
- Supplements to Commerce Reports.
- Latin American Yearbook. Criterion Newspaper Syndicate, N. Y. 1920. (Bates Hall)
- Official Guide to South America. Burnett Publishing Co., Los Angeles. 1920-21.
- The State of São Paulo, Brazil. Equitable Trust Co., N. Y. 1921.
- Essentials of Trading with Latin America and the British West Indies. Guaranty Trust Co., N. Y.
- Our South American Trade and its Financing. National City Bank, N. Y. 1920.
- Statistical Abstract of the United States. (Imports and exports of different countries.) U. S. Bureau of Foreign and Domestic Commerce.
- Congressional Directory. (Diplomatic and Consular Officials.)
- International Trade Developer. Chicago.
- Exporters' Encyclopaedia. Exporters' Encyclopaedia Corporation, N. Y. 1921. (Statistical Department)

PAMPHLETS ISSUED BY THE PAN AMERICAN UNION.

(Most of these booklets are profusely illustrated.)

Latin America, General Descriptive Data.

Latin American Tariffs.	1917
Latin American Trade. A Comparative Survey.	1919
A New Gateway to the Heart of South America.	1918
Seeing South America.	1919
Glances at Ports and Harbors around South America.	1921
Argentina. Foreign Commerce.	1919
Argentine Republic, General Descriptive Data.	1920
Rosario, Argentina's Second City.	1919
Bolivia, Foreign Commerce.	1919
Bolivia, General Descriptive Data.	1920
La Paz, the World's Highland Capital.	1918
Brazil, Foreign Commerce.	1919
Brazil, General Descriptive Data.	1920
São Paulo, the Heart of Coffee Land.	1918
Chile, Foreign Commerce.	1918
Santiago, Chile's Charming Capital.	1918
Valparaiso, the Great South Pacific Em- porium.	1918
Colombia, General Descriptive Data.	1920
Costa Rica, Commerce.	1919
Costa Rica, General Descriptive Data.	1919
Cuba, Foreign Commerce.	1918
Cuba, General Descriptive Data.	1919
Dominican Republic, Commerce.	1919
Dominican Republic, General Descriptive Data.	1920
Ecuador, Commerce.	1919
Ecuador, General Descriptive Data.	1919
Guatemala, General Descriptive Data.	1919
Haiti, General Descriptive Data.	1919
Honduras, Commerce.	1920
Mexico, the City of Palaces.	1918
Mexico, Foreign Trade.	1918
Mexico, General Descriptive Data.	1919
Nicaragua, Commerce.	1919
Nicaragua, General Descriptive Data.	1917
Panama, Foreign Commerce.	1919
Panama, General Descriptive Data.	1920
Paraguay, Commerce.	1919
Asuncion, Paraguay's Interesting Capital.	1919
Peru, Commerce.	1918
Peru, General Descriptive Data.	1921
Lima, the City of the Kings.	1918
Salvador, Commerce.	1919
Salvador, General Descriptive Data.	1919
Uruguay, Foreign Commerce.	1917
Uruguay, General Descriptive Data.	1919
Montevideo, the City of Roses.	1917
Venezuela, Foreign Commerce.	1918
Venezuela, General Descriptive Data.	1920

U. S. BUREAU OF FOREIGN AND DOMESTIC COMMERCE.

SPECIAL AGENTS SERIES.

The following bulletins, issued since 1916, refer to Latin-American subjects.

Those marked with an asterisk (*) may be found in the Statistical Department.

*126. Textiles in Cuba.	1917
*128. Electrical goods in Cuba.	1917
131. South American markets for fresh fruits. Illus.	1917
*132. Markets for paper, paper products, and printing machinery in Cuba and Panama.	1917
*133. Market for boots and shoes in Cuba.	1917
*134. Electrical goods in Porto Rico.	1917
*135. Market for boots and shoes in Porto Rico.	1917
*137. Textiles in Porto Rico and Jamaica.	1917
*139. Market for construction materials and machinery in Cuba.	1917
*140. Markets for agricultural implements and machinery in Brazil. Illus.	1917
*141. West Indies as an export field. Illus. Bibliography. Maps.	1917
*142. Markets for agricultural implements and machinery in Chile and Peru.	1917
143. Paper, paper products, and printing machinery in Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador.	1917
*144. Markets for construction materials and machinery in Venezuela.	1917
*145. Markets for boots and shoes in Ja- maica.	1917
148. South American markets for dried fruits.	1917
152. Markets for boots and shoes in Peru. Illus.	1917
153. Chilean markets for paper, paper products, and printing machinery. Illus.	1917
154. Electrical goods in Ecuador and Peru.	1917
158. Textile markets of Bolivia, Ecuador, and Peru. Illus.	1918
*160. Construction materials and machinery in Colombia. Illus.	1918
*162. Colombian markets for American furniture.	1918
163. Paper, paper products, and printing machinery in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. Illus.	1918
164. Textile market of Chile.	1918
165. Tanning materials of Latin America. Illus.	1918
*167. Electrical goods in Bolivia and Chile.	1918
*168. Wearing apparel in Chile.	1918
169. Investments in Latin America and British West Indies. Map.	1918
171. Brazilian markets for paper, paper products, and printing machinery. Illus.	1918
*174. Markets for boots and shoes in Chile and Bolivia. Illus.	1918
175. Construction materials and machinery in Chile, Peru, and Ecuador. Illus.	1919
176. Furniture markets of Chile, Peru, Bolivia, and Ecuador. Illus.	1919

177. Boots and shoes, leather, and supplies in Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. 1919
 178. Advertising methods in Cuba. Illus. 1919
 179. Boots and shoes, leather, and supplies in Brazil. 1919
 *181. Jewelry and silverware in Cuba. Illus. 1919
 *183. Furniture markets of Argentina, Uruguay, Paraguay, and Brazil. Illus. 1919
 184. Electrical goods in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. Illus. 1919
 185. Advertising methods in Chile, Peru, and Bolivia. Illus. 1919
 187. Jewelry and silverware in Chile, Bolivia, and Peru. Illus. 1919
 *188. Construction materials and machinery in Argentina and Bolivia. Illus. 1920
 *189. Construction materials and machinery in Uruguay. 1920
 *190. Advertising methods in Argentina, Uruguay, and Brazil. Illus. 1920
 192. Construction materials and machinery in Brazil. Illus. 1920
 194. Textile markets of Argentina, Uruguay, and Paraguay. 1920
 199. Paraguay, a commercial handbook. Illus. Map. 1920
 *203. Textile markets of Brazil. Bibliography. 1920
 206. Colombia, a commercial and industrial handbook. Illus. Index. Map. 1921

MISCELLANEOUS SERIES.

41. Markets for American Hardware in Chile and Bolivia. Illus. 1916
 43. Markets for American Hardware in Argentina, Uruguay and Paraguay. 1916
 47. Brazilian Markets for American Hardware. 1916
 69. Wearing Apparel in Bolivia. 1918
 71. Wearing Apparel in Brazil. 1918
 74. Wearing Apparel in Peru. 1918
 86. Brazil. A study of Economic Conditions since 1913. 1920
 88. The Economic Position of Argentina during the War. Bibliography. 1920

NOTES ON THE PUBLICATIONS.

DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE.

Bulletin 982, "Market Statistics," gives 273 pages of valuable data on prices, receipts, shipments, inspection of farm products, and exports and imports. The bulletin is well indexed.

DEPARTMENT OF COMMERCE.

The new service offered by the Geographic Division of the Bureau of

Foreign and Domestic Commerce is outlined in the November 21st issue of "Commerce Reports." The intention is to improve the quality and serviceableness of cabled reports, supplementing them and interpreting their significance in a later critical review, fortified by periodical written reports from the overseas representatives of the Bureau and from the members of the Consular Service. The Department of Commerce has thirteen commercial attachés, 27 general and five special trade commissioners, thirteen assistant trade commissioners, and a force of 25 assistants in an equal number of foreign countries. The current trade reports of the eight hundred American Consular Offices are also at its command. Foreign newspapers and periodicals, numbering 295, and written in eighteen languages, are regularly indexed and clipped in its Research and Geographic Divisions.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

In his annual report to the Secretary of the Interior, covering the 1921 travel season to the national parks, Stephen T. Mather, Director of the National Park Service, places the parks at the head of those things in our national life which make for better citizenship, since they provide healthful diversion, recreation and enjoyment, and offer unequalled advantages of an educational nature. Travel to the parks and monuments under the jurisdiction of the National Park Service has this year exceeded all preceding records, amounting to the tremendous total of 1,171,797 persons, or 113,342 more than last year. In six years the travel has increased to this total from the 356,097 visitors recorded in 1916. Among the national parks Rocky Mountain Park in Colorado had the greatest number of visitors. Of the monuments, the Muir Woods in California were the favorite resort.

An event of vital importance to the national parks occurred when Congress, by the act of March 3, 1921, amended the Federal Water-Power Act, which had permitted water power

development in the national parks and monuments, by withdrawing the application of that act to the then existing parks and monuments.

An interesting feature of park travel is the large increase in the number of those who visit the parks in their own motor cars. Free public camp grounds have been established in the national parks; they are provided with sanitary facilities, fire wood, and pure water. In two of the camp-grounds in Yellowstone, combined ranger stations and community houses have been constructed this year, at a cost of \$16,000. The interest of western cities and towns in supplying camping accommodations to visiting motorists is emphasized. These accommodations often-times extend to elaborate camping grounds, generously provided with electric heating and cooking facilities and other conveniences.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Bulletin of the Bureau of Labor Statistics No. 299, entitled "Personal Research Agencies," is an invaluable aid to those who are interested in employment management, intelligence tests, placement, industrial relations, vocational education and kindred subjects. The work of Federal, State and Municipal agencies along these lines is described and lists are given of pamphlets issued. The work of non-official agencies such as the American Academy of Political and Social Science and the Retail Research Association is fully described. The last section of the pamphlet deals with the courses on these subjects given in universities and colleges in all parts of the United States. The index is followed by a list of all the publications issued by the Bureau.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

Among 129 cities of the United States Boston ranks fourth in the number of depositors in its Postal Saving Department; this seems to point to the fact that our citizens are acquiring the thrift habit.

A new and interesting piece of ser-

vice is outlined in Postal Bulletin No. 12717, November 21:

To all Postmasters:

It is my wish that the machinery of the Postal Service be placed at the disposal of those searching for loved ones who have dropped from sight. Every year thousands in this country are reported missing: children, young men, young women, husbands, and wives, some never to be heard of again by their distressed families and friends. The Post Office Department, with its organized facilities reaching into every corner of the land, may be of practical service to the distressed. Therefore, they are willingly offered for this purpose. There is no intention of interference with private affairs or to act as a collection agency. Postmasters will scrutinize and investigate carefully each case reported to them, and when convinced of its genuineness will make such inquiries of other postmasters as the circumstances may warrant, and advise the interested relative or friend.

WILL H. HAYS,
Postmaster General.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

Monograph No. 7, issued by the Historical Branch of the War Plans Division of the General Staff, entitled "Organization of the Service of Supply, American Expeditionary Forces," contains a deal of information. At the end of the pamphlet is a series of organization charts and a map showing the lines of communication and the various supply depots in France. Many questions frequently asked about quantities of supplies used by the army are answered in this book.

The food consumption, expressed in pounds per man per day, is given as follows:

Potatoes	1.1770
Meat	1.0729
Flour . . . . .	.8527
Sugar . . . . .	.2409
Fruit . . . . .	.2302
Beans . . . . .	.1793
Milk . . . . .	.0976
Coffee . . . . .	.0794
Rice and hominy . . . . .	.0734
Butter . . . . .	.0686
Tobacco . . . . .	.0576
Salt . . . . .	.0477
Vinegar . . . . .	.0332
Candy . . . . .	.0228
Soap . . . . .	.0228
Baking powder . . . . .	.0051
Pepper . . . . .	.0019
Flavoring . . . . .	.0013
Cinnamon . . . . .	.0009
Total	4.2887

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume I, No. 4

January 15, 1922

CONTENTS.

"THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC"	37	ENGAGEMENTS	45
WALTER G. FORSYTH	39	WITH THE JUNIORS	46
A SHAKESPEARIAN RARITY	40	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOS- TON	47
EDITORIALS	42	LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS	47
THE LIBRARY SEAL	43		
NOTES	43		
LINDSAY SWIFT	44		
MR. SARGENT'S DECORATIONS	44		
TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES	45		

SUPPLEMENT.

NEWS NOTES ON GOVERNMENT PUBLI- CATIONS, No. 21	*13 - *16
--	-----------

"THE LIBRARY ASSISTANT IN THE EYES OF THE PUBLIC."

On Thursday morning, January 5, Mr. George H. Tripp, of the Free Public Library in New Bedford, gave the first of the series of Informal Talks to Junior Assistants planned for the present winter. The speaker was introduced by Mr. Belden, who explained the purpose of the course and spoke of the prizes to be awarded in connection with it. An abstract of Mr. Tripp's address follows:

A library is not merely or mainly a collection of books. A pile of books a mile high and a mile wide would not make a library. A library is a collection of books administered and distributed wisely and well. You people, not the collection of books, form the library. It is the way the books are used, as a part of the public life, that makes a library a real, active element in the community. I am going to speak to you briefly about some of our duties in a library, and perhaps some of the "don'ties."

What is needed in a library assistant?

I. Quick apprehension of what is wanted, as, for example, when Brad-

street is asked for and Main Street is desired. The assistant must interpret into library terms the inquiries of the public.

2. Tact. This is very important. It comes from the Latin "to touch," and should mean, to touch in a sympathetic and delicate way, to feel one's way toward the intelligence with which the library assistant is dealing. As an example of this, there is the old story of a person coming into a library and calling for something on roses. Books on the cultivation and varieties of roses, etc., were gotten out, but to no avail. Finally the librarian elicited the fact that the inquirer wanted something on the Wars of the Roses. In time the assistant can find out what is wanted and supply it.

3. The most important qualification in an assistant, above everything else, is courtesy; not a stage grin or the smile which won't come off, but an evident purpose to treat the people who come into the library with proper regard. I cannot emphasize this too strongly. It should be said of our courtesy, as of the Negro's corn bread, "That's just what we ain't got nuthin' else *but*." A special way in which courtesy can be shown is over the

telephone. A telephone voice often gives an opportunity to gauge a person's character and mentality and taste, almost better than anything else. One should not answer in too business-like a tone. Brusqueness gives an idea that you are a person who is covered over with points that are rather uncomfortable. The proper courtesy at the telephone is an extremely important asset. Good positions have been lost because of seeming discourtesy at the telephone.

4. You should be as well dressed as you can, but simply; follow the dictates of fashion when they do not lead too far, but keep your ears uncovered to hear what is going on.

5. The library assistant needs as much as any person to understand a joke and to see a point that is a little humorous. I believe that the schools in this country ought to teach the difference between good humor and bad humor, just as much as they teach the difference between good and bad music. It makes angels weep to think of the stuff put before the American people in the "funny columns." Analyze for an hour what they are based on, and you will realize that the lower elements of human nature are acted on by the modern joke.

6. After tact, quick apprehension and courtesy, and a quick sense of humor, there should be some education. It seems a startling statement, but some elementary culture is a good thing. It stimulates wide reading on the part of the assistant. This should not be entirely heavy reading, but it should always be worth while. President Eliot, in his famous Five-foot Book Shelf, indicates that a few minutes' good reading a day accomplishes much in the mental life of the reader in a few years. Don't always read Gibbon's Rome, Malthus, or Adam Smith. You should be as thoroughly familiar with "Alice in Wonderland" as with Macaulay's History. Any book worth while is part of an endless chain. You will find in it the name of some other author or book, or some historical or allegorical allusion which is worth looking up. Burton's "Anatomy of Melancholy" is a book perhaps the

fullest in the world of recondite allusions. It is full of fruitful lessons. Take such a book and trace out the different lines and you will be on the track of a liberal education, even a universal education. Any book of real quality suggests something else.

Mr. Foss, librarian of the Somerville library, himself a delightful man, once said that the cardinal virtues of a librarian should be toleration and enthusiasm; toleration to make him judicial, and enthusiasm to make him human. He also said that a librarian should be a good mixer.

What are the duties of the library assistant? What should he do and what not do? He should reach out to help in every possible way. He should watch for opportunities to help. It is surprising and most gratifying to find one's offers of assistance so eagerly taken by the public. The many ramifications of the modern catalogue are for the average reader particularly difficult to solve. There are so many cards for a subject, 500 or 1000, it may be. If some one is looking up China or Japan, he does not know that there is a certain order—description, history, industries—each in its proper place. It is difficult for the man who comes to the library once a week or once a year to understand all the phases of it. Put them on the right track, like a traffic policeman. Suggest something equally good, if the book they want is not in. They appreciate it if you take a personal interest in them. But it is important to show discrimination in the amount of help offered. You cannot be too careful in helping the older ones; but younger people should be shown that something depends upon themselves. Help them to find out things for themselves.

Some of the things not to do! Do not be brusque or too constantly officious; those whom we serve are sometimes as good as we are. Do not be over sensitive. Do not be too easily insulted. Do not worry over your social position. If someone does not want to be friendly with you, just consider it *his* misfortune. If you are worth anything, your social position will look out for itself. Do not try

ostentatiously to elevate the tastes of your readers. People have their preferences. Even very good citizens may prefer Jesse James to Henry James; it is a matter of personal preference.

One of the great advantages of working in a library is meeting with people who are your intellectual superiors. If you approach your work in the right spirit, you will find that you can often help a person who may be able to tell you things in his own line of work that you never dreamed of; he may be intellectually your superior, although you can help him. You cannot judge, either, by the appearance of his clothes.

Do not send everybody to the information department if you can answer the inquiries yourself. Some things you are supposed to know. It is easy to say that there is an information department, but some things you should answer yourself. And do not be an automatic book carrier; they are better made of iron than of flesh and blood.

"If you see the boss (the head librarian) do not jump unless something is left undone. But if you see the real boss (the public) jump as if your life depended upon it." Give your customers what they want before they know that they want it.

Do not be offensively trying always to improve the taste for books. Nothing is worse than to correct the language or the grammar of people who want to get books. Everybody is liable to make mistakes, and if someone comes in and uses an ungrammatical sentence, do not correct it. Samuel McChord Crothers made a statement about the vocation of a librarian. He said that "the vocation of a librarian is the systematic training of the printed page for easy introduction to the reading public. The librarian's avocation is the endeavor to fabricate some basis for the reputation of general knowledge under which he labors."

What is your job? It depends, of course, upon your point of view or the way you visualize it. You may look at it from the money point of view, or as something which has to be done, or you can idealize it. Of three men in a

stoneyard, one said he was earning \$5 a day, the second said he was "cutting this stone," the third, that he was helping to build a cathedral. We deal in the finest merchandise in the world. It is up to us to make it sell.

Idealize your job. The greatest satisfaction lies in the possibility of giving service and in getting the results which service brings. Every library should be an aristocracy of books and a democracy of service.

WALTER G. FORSYTH.

The greater part of the following is abridged from Mr. Forsyth's notes in the Reports of the Harvard Class of 1888.

Walter Greenwood Forsyth was born in Weymouth, Mass., Oct. 20, 1865, the son of Francis Flint Forsyth and Sarah Jane Dickerman. He was graduated Bachelor of Arts at Harvard in 1888, and spent the next three years in electrical work in Providence and Boston. His last business position was with the New England Telephone and Telegraph Co., in which he created the Archives Department. This position, foreshadowing his life work, he left in order to pursue the two-year course in the New York State Library School at Albany. In 1893 he began a series of tasks in the library field, nearly all having more than usual technical interest. In that year he prepared catalogues of three collections: the libraries of John Van Schaick Lansing Pruyn and Bishop Doane, both of Albany; and the Braun photographs in the Worcester Public Library. The Pruyn catalogue was printed. In 1894 he became superintendent of circulation in the Library Company of Philadelphia, but overworked, and in 1895 spent a two months' leave of absence in Europe. In the same year, in collaboration with Joseph L. Harrison, he published *Bibliography No. 1 of the New York State Library*, entitled "Guide to the study of James Abbott McNeill Whistler."

He recovered his health in 1897, was temporarily employed at the Boston Athenaeum, and took charge of

the work of the assistant secretary of the Publishing Section of the American Library Association. In the summer of 1898 he arranged and catalogued the library of the Attorney-General at the State House in Boston. He spent the winter of 1899 in Lexington, Ky., arranging the Public Library and training its staff; the following summer he re-arranged the library of the Arnold Arboretum, and, under the direction of Prof. Charles Sprague Sargent, began a bibliography of forestry.

In April, 1900, he was appointed librarian of Lafayette College, Easton, Pa. He moved the books from their old quarters into the new Van Wickle Memorial Library building, and instructed the staff in modern methods. This work he gave up in 1902, entering the Catalogue Department of the Boston Public Library in March. In September he was given charge of the Fine Arts Reading Room. He became assistant to the custodian of Bates Hall in 1905, and in 1912 was transferred to the Barton-Ticknor Library, where he remained in charge until his resignation in August, 1921. He now made a short visit to California, and on his return was employed by Prof. Paul J. Sachs, of Harvard, in bibliographical work at the Fogg Art Museum.

Mr. Forsyth was a man of extreme sensitiveness and a scholar of great precision. These qualities concealed too often a real need and longing for companionship. In his last years he was practically alone in the world. He suffered greatly from neuritis. This, with increasing melancholia, became at length a burden greater than he could bear, and he took his life Monday, December 26, 1921.

His club and society membership included the Massachusetts Library Club, the American Library Association, the Bibliographical Society of America; the Harvard Club, the University Club, of which he was for a number of years librarian, and the City Club.

L. E. T.

Christmas was celebrated, as usual, by a big Christmas tree in Stack 4, with presents for all the workers in the Stacks.

A SHAKESPEARIAN RARITY.

Many are the editors of Shakespeare, but it is perhaps not widely known that Sir Walter Scott and his son-in-law Lockhart have any claim to be numbered among them. As only one copy of what Scott and Lockhart accomplished in their Shakespearian venture is known to exist anywhere in the world, first-hand knowledge of it is necessarily limited.

The story of this undertaking is told in Thomas Constable's life of his father, Archibald Constable, the Edinburgh publisher.¹ From a somewhat voluminous correspondence regarding the matter an outline may be extracted.

In a letter to Scott, written in February, 1822, Mr. Constable, after speaking of Boswell's revision of Malone's Shakespeare, says, "But really few people care so much about the various readings and texts of Shakespeare as to purchase twenty vols. octavo, if they had an opportunity of being supplied with a more readable book at less expense, and in fewer volumes. . . . An edition of the immortal bard might be brought out in twelve or fourteen volumes, with a set of readable and amusing notes. There ought, besides, to be an introductory volume, written on purpose, giving a general view of Shakespeare's life, writings, times, and also an account of the labours of former editors: but there is only one individual into whose hands such an undertaking could be put, to embrace and secure all the advantages which I would conceive it necessary to have accomplished . . . At present I shall not say more; but I trust you will give it your best consideration."

During the month Sir Walter replied, "A Shakespeare, to say truth, has been often a favourite scheme with me; a sensible Shakespeare, in which the useful and readable notes should be condensed and separated from the trash; but it would require much time, and, I fear, more patience than I may ever be able to command. . . . Yet,

¹ Archibald Constable and his Literary Correspondents. A memorial, by his son, Thomas Constable. Edinburgh. 1873. Vol. 3, p. 183 *et seq.*

so long ago as when John Ballantyne was in Hanover Street, I did think seriously of such a thing, and I still think it a desideratum in English literature." In October, 1822, Scott wrote, "Dear Constable, — I have been thinking, ever since you left me, of your literary projects. The poems I cannot bring my mind to. . . . The Shakespeare plan I like much better, and could conduct it without interfering with other engagements, since I could have Lockhart's powerful assistance as to Philology. . . . No doubt a most popular book might be made by putting the notes into an entertaining and popular shape, and with my son Lockhart's assistance for the fag, I would have great pleasure in doing it. . . ."

Mr. Robert Cadell, partner of Constable, counseled delay as to the Shakespeare, believing that there was more money for the publishers in original works by Scott. Yet he adds, "If he lives, we shall get Shakespeare."

In February, 1823, Constable wrote regarding details of form and scope, and in April Lockhart said, "I have had a good deal of conversation with Sir Walter Scott about the Shakespeare, and I believe there will be no difficulty to the plan started by either of us, in case you have quite made up your mind."

March 17th, 1824, Cadell wrote to Scott approving the scheme if it could be carried out without hindering other projected work, and expressing the opinion that if Lockhart would do the work, except the introductory volume, the undertaking could not be too soon commenced.

In January, 1825, Constable wrote, "It gives me great pleasure to tell you that the first sheet of Sir Walter Scott's Shakespeare is now in type . . . ; it will make ten volumes." And again, in September, "Shakespeare is getting on."

Thomas Constable closes his account of the matter by saying, "Three volumes of the edition were completed before the sad crisis in 1826, but then laid aside; and ultimately, I have been told, the sheets were sold in London as waste paper! It is even doubted

whether one copy be now in existence."

The "sad crisis" was, of course, the great failure in which the Constable firm, the Ballantynes, and Scott were all involved. But Mr. Constable was, happily, in error in doubting the existence of a single copy. In all probability the bulk of what had been printed was destroyed, but fortunately one copy of the fragmentary work escaped.

In the Barton Collection of the Boston Public Library there is a set of three octavo volumes, numbered II., III., IV., each containing four of Shakespeare's comedies.¹ There are brief introductions to each play, and annotations at the bottoms of the pages, but no general editorial matter, no statement as to editor. How then do we identify it? Fortunately, the last page of each volume bears the imprint, Edinburgh: Printed by James Ballantyne and Co.²; and still more fortunately volume II bears on its fly-leaves a manuscript note by Thomas Rodd, the well-known English bookseller, through whom Mr. Barton obtained many of his books.

Mr. Rodd's note is as follows:

I purchased these three volumes of Shakespeare's works from a sale at Edinburgh. They were entered in the catalogue as "Shakespeare's Works edited by Sir Walter Scott and Lockhart, vols 2, 3, 4. all printed, unique."

That Scott entertained the design of editing Shakespeare, I knew from Mr. Constable, who mentioned it to me more than once . . .

The bankruptcies of Scott and Constable prevented the completion of the work. . . .

T. RODD.

In 1874, Justin Winsor, then Librarian of the Boston Public Library, published in the *Boston Daily Advertiser* for March 21 an account of the volumes, hoping to elicit information of any other possibly existing copy. As none has ever been forthcoming, from any source, the Boston Public Library may fairly claim the unique possession of the Scott and Lockhart Shakespeare.

M. A. T.

¹ Volume II contains *Two gentlemen of Verona*, *The comedy of errors*, *Love's labour's lost*, *The merchant of Venice*; volume III, *A midsummer night's dream*, *The taming of the shrew*, *As you like it*, *Much ado about nothing*; volume IV, *The merry wives of Windsor*, *Measure for measure*, *All's well that ends well*, *Twelfth Night*.

² Ballantyne and Co. printed for the Constable firm.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. I, No. 4.

Jan. 15, 1922

In addition to the Editorial Board named above, LIBRARY LIFE has the assistance of the following corps of sub-editors:

Florence M. Bethune, for the Branch Libraries.

Frank C. Blaisdell, for the Sunday and Evening Service.

Pierce E. Buckley, for Bates Hall.

Bessie L. Doherty, for the Branch Department.

Fanny Goldstein, for the Reading Rooms.

Edith Guerrier, for the Government Document Service.

Francis J. Hannigan, for the Periodical, Newspaper, and Patent Rooms, and Information Office.

Frank R. Harris, for the Junior Boys.

Alice M. Jordan, for the Children's Department.

Patrick A. Kennedy, for the Engineering and Janitor Service.

James W. Kenney, for the Bindery.

George S. Maynard, for the Special Libraries.

Mary C. Sheridan, for the Issue Department.

Mary A. Tenney, for the Catalogue and Ordering Departments.

Horace L. Wheeler, for the Statistical Department.

Francis P. Znotas, for the Junior Staff.

BUILDING A LIBRARY.

"One said he was earning \$5 a day, the second said he was 'cutting this stone,' the third, that he was helping to build a cathedral."

We are all helping to build a library: but it is sometimes hard to see the big structure that we are creating by our daily efforts. Each works steadily in his place, doing his routine job; it seems like the same thing, over and over. Yet each of us contributes his stone to the building; if it is well cut and fitted it helps to make the Library more solid and serviceable and beautiful.

This is the season of annual reports. Each of us is looking back, to see what the year has accomplished. But the annual report is even more important as a starting-point for the new year of the Library. In retrospect we see the institution growing, unevenly, it is true, now at this point, now at that, but ever larger, ever more perfectly fitted to serve the community; and we see where we have helped or failed to help, as individuals, in the progress.

As we look forward, let us each seek a vision of the finer things to be in the future. Every department of the Central Library, every Branch and Reading Room, can see a larger work to do—larger in itself, and a more perfect contribution to the building of the Library; the problem is, how to do it. One thing is certain: no one, from the Librarian down, can do it alone. We must all pull together, if there is to be movement.

Three things are needed for the new year, by everyone who has a part in the work of the Library: courage, to dare to do the best that is in us; insight into the spirit of our job, and its possibilities; an open mind, to see and value what is good in new methods and in points of view different from our own. These, with a vision of the large purposes for which the Library exists, which shall inspire us to put forth our best efforts, will ensure a year of notable progress in the service of the community.

MR. FORSYTH.

On Friday afternoon, Dec. 30, a little group of friends gathered in the Chapel of the Village Cemetery in Weymouth to bid farewell to their old associate, Walter G. Forsyth. There was a hand-

ful of Library employees, a few old schoolmates, one or two to whom he had been kind; not a relative — for he had no “own folks.” As we waited for the body, we faced the stained glass window erected by Mr. Forsyth in memory of his mother, which bears the inscription, “Now abideth faith, hope, charity, these three; but the greatest of these is charity.”

Mr. Forsyth was a kind and gentle man, refined and sensitive to the last degree, alone in a matter-of-fact world which became ever harder for his imperfectly adjusted nervous organization. He struggled against it for many years, but the melancholy which haunted him was too strong for him in the end. May he rest in peace as he lies beside the father and mother, on whose graves he had himself placed the accustomed wreaths the day before his death.

The funeral service, conducted by Mr. Forsyth's old rector, Rev. E. T. Sullivan, of Trinity Church, Newton Centre, was full of faith and hope; let us who knew him, with all his whims and foibles, lay on his grave the gift of charity.

THE LIBRARY SEAL.

Since the publication of the last issue, there have been inquiries regarding the motto, “Lux Omnium Civium,” which appears on the seal of the Library. A note on its history may be of interest.

The Trustees of the Library were made a corporation by Act of the Legislature approved April 4, 1878. In November, 1884, a committee was appointed to look into the matter of a seal for the Corporation, but little was done until the new building was in progress. On Dec. 18, 1888, the Trustees voted to accept the design for a seal made by Augustus St. Gaudens, with the motto, “Toti genitum populo.” On May 29, 1889, the present motto, “Lux omnium civium,” was substituted for the one first proposed, and on June 3 the seal, with this motto, was formally adopted as the Seal of the Corporation.

The design was used a number of times in the adornment of the Library building. We are all familiar with it as carved over the central entrance arch, and with the brass seal inlaid in the floor of the Entrance Hall; but how many have noted its use in the ceiling of the Librarian's Office, or the mosaic in the floor of the Trustees' Anteroom, which was made from the adaptation of St. Gaudens's design drawn by Kenyon Cox?

The actual seal used in embossing documents was cut by Henry Mitchell, of Boston; the design as used in the Library bookplate was engraved by J. Winfred Spenceley, later very famous as a designer of bookplates, who was then a practically unknown employee of Mr. Mitchell.

Mr. St. Gaudens, in a letter to the Trustees, under date March 19, 1889, explains the symbolism of the seal as follows:

The Genii with the torches may signify the illuminating power of literature. The Book needs no explanation. The Tree is the Tree of Knowledge, while the dolphins refer to the maritime character of the City of Boston — a seaport.

The warm appreciation of Lindsay Swift, by Ex-Senator Albert J. Beveridge, which appears in this issue, was received too late for inclusion with the other tributes in the issue of Nov. 15. It will be remembered that Mr. Swift assisted Mr. Beveridge in preparing for publication his great “Life of John Marshall.”

There are few unique books in the world. Read Miss Tenney's article about one such book which this Library is fortunate enough to possess.

Be sure not to miss the important exhibition illustrative of the life and work of Charles Dickens, which will open in the Fine Arts Department on February 6.

Mr. Blaisdell wishes it to be known that the talks reported in “With the Juniors” are not exclusively for the boys; all members of the Sunday and evening staff are welcome.

LINDSAY SWIFT; AN APPRECIATION.

A rare mingling of gentleness, wisdom, humor, learning, modesty, taste and faithfulness — such was Lindsay Swift. He was a cultured man and so very "human." I never knew one more richly endowed with the quality of comradeship. He was ideal as a companion. He had the divine gift of friendliness.

Lindsay Swift deserved the title of a "learned man." He was really educated. His taste was fastidious, accurate, just. He understood the force and the utility of beauty. To him the construction of a sentence, the arrangement of a paragraph, the architecture of a chapter, were matters of vast concern. He appreciated art in writing, he gloried in the perfection of it and was infinitely disgusted with slovenly work.

He was that curious phenomenon — a person nobly equipped by nature as well as by acquirements, yet unaware of his powers. His modesty amounted to self-depreciation; this was one of the few defects of his character. Those who loved and appreciated him had to "buck him up" all the time — had to assure and reassure him of his superiority. With a small part of the conceit of some whose names are better known than his, Lindsay Swift would have been recognized in the world of letters as one of the master critics of his time.

Of our personal relations I cannot write adequately — they were so close and tender. He was so vivacious, so candid, so informing — so everything that, to me, is worth while — that I cannot describe what he meant to me; and I won't try.

How he hated "bunk!" In this age Lindsay Swift was an anachronism. He was a soldier of truth. If only he had been blessed with boldness he would have led a successful revolution against the pretense and shoddy in our modern civilization. Fraud enraged him, sentimentality sickened him. To know him, to talk with him, was good for one's soul.

Lindsay Swift was more than a critic, more than a "literary man." He was no less a student of events. He appraised the happenings of the times by the standards — or shall I say the tests — of human nature and of history. He was therefore a fair and intelligent commentator on "politics," as well as a capable and finished critic of literary work.

But best of all, he was a friend — a staunch, sympathetic, understanding friend. And he was a man's man all through — without gush or any sort of pretending. I count it an asset in my life that I knew him so well and intimately.

ALBERT J. BEVERIDGE.

MR. SARGENT'S DECORATIONS.

In October last the Boston Museum of Fine Arts unveiled Mr. Sargent's new mural decorations.

No comprehensive name has been given to the series, but, in the main, it portrays characters taken from Greek and Roman mythology—Apollo, Minerva, Venus and Cupid, with others of less importance.

"Architecture, Painting and Sculpture protected by Minerva from the ravages of time" appears to me the finest, but the "Sphinx and Chimaera," in which a radiant woman flies above an impassive Sphinx, is the more original conception. In a third oval canvas the Muses wind gracefully about Apollo, and the fourth shows the god of music on his tripod, with Orpheus and a giant Pan. Four smaller medallions have for subjects Astronomy, Music, Ganymede carried off by the Eagle, and Prometheus attacked by the vulture.

The decoration, whose color scheme, simply stated, is blue, gold and white, is enriched and completed in a most successful fashion by the addition of a number of admirable reliefs—Cupid and Psyche, the Three Graces, and a Satyr and Maenad, to name no more—modelled by Mr. Sargent's master hand, which has also wrought to perfection the other decorative and architectural features of the work.

As one ascends the great staircase to the Rotunda of the Museum, the first (and remaining) impression is of a beautiful decoration, conceived and carried out as a consistent whole.

This unity cannot be seen in the artist's "Judaism nad Christianity," in the Boston Public Library, some parts of which, though magnificently done, are not true decoration. Such is the superb, but too intricate, lunette of the persecuted Children of Israel, over the frieze of the Prophets, the last-named rightly judged to be one of the painter's masterpieces, having the simplicity which is lacking in some portions of the work.

But though, to my mind, Mr. Sargent failed of complete success in the Library's mural paintings, we have the marvellous Astarte, the Law, the Messianic Era, and the Madonna of Sorrows, at least, to take pride in as splendid and triumphant decoration, which displays an originality and power that one looks for in vain in the charming decorations of the Art Museum's Rotunda.

W. R.

TELEPHONE DIRECTORIES.

The latest telephone directories of the following cities, including their suburbs in most cases, may be seen in the Information Office. If no state is mentioned, understand Massachusetts.

Albany, N. Y.	Concord, N. H.
Atlanta, Ga.	Dallas, Tex.
Atlantic City, N. J.	Dayton, Ohio.
Augusta, Me.	Denver, Colo.
Austin, Tex.	Des Moines, Iowa.
Baltimore, Md.	Detroit, Mich.
Bangor, Me.	Dubuque, Iowa.
Bar Harbor, Me.	Duluth, Minn.
Bellows Falls and Brattleboro, Vt.	Elmira, N. Y.
Birmingham, Ala.	El Paso, Tex.
Bridgeport, Conn.	Fall River and New Bedford.
Brockton and Rock- land.	Fitchburg.
Buffalo, N. Y.	Galveston, Tex.
Burlington, Vt.	Gloucester.
Butte, Mont.	Harrisburg, Pa.
Chattanooga, Tenn.	Hartford, Conn.
Chicago, Ill.	Haverhill.
Cincinnati, Ohio.	Holyoke.
Cleveland, Ohio.	Houlton, Me.
Colorado Springs, Colo.	Indianapolis, Ind.
Columbia, S. C.	Jacksonville, Fla.
Columbus, Ohio.	Kansas City, Mo. and Kan.
	Lancaster, Pa.

Lawrence.	Portland, Me.
Lewiston and Auburn, Me.	Portland, Ore.
Lexington, Ky.	Providence, R. I.
Lincoln, Neb.	Quebec, Canada.
Little Rock, Ark.	Reading, Pa.
Los Angeles, Cal.	Richmond, Va.
Louisville, Ky.	Rochester, N. Y.
Lowell.	Rumford and Skow- hegan, Me.
Lynn.	Sacramento, Cal.
Manchester, N. H.	St. Johnsbury, Vt.
Memphis, Tenn.	St. Joseph, Mo.
Milwaukee, Wis.	St. Louis, Mo.
Minneapolis and St. Paul, Minn.	Salem.
Montgomery, Ala.	Salt Lake City, Utah.
Montreal, Canada.	San Antonio, Tex.
Nashua, N. H.	San Diego County, Cal.
Nashville, Tenn.	San Francisco and Bay Counties, Cal.
Newburyport.	Savannah, Ga.
New Haven, Conn.	Schenectady, N. Y.
New Jersey Cities and Towns.	Seattle, Wash.
New London, Conn.	Sioux City, Iowa.
New Orleans, La.	Spokane, Wash.
New York City and Brooklyn.	Springfield.
Northampton.	Syracuse, N. Y.
North Conway, N. H.	Tacoma, Wash.
Oakland, Cal.	Toledo, Ohio.
Oklahoma City, Okla.	Topeka, Kan.
Omaha, Neb., and Council Bluffs, Iowa.	Trenton, N. J.
Pasadena, Cal.	Troy, N. Y.
Pawtucket, R. I.	Utica, N. Y.
Philadelphia, Pa.	Washington, D. C.
Pittsburgh, Pa.	Waterbury, Conn.
Pittsfield.	Wheeling, W. Va.
Plymouth and Taun- ton.	Wilmington, Del.
	Worcester.
	Youngstown, Ohio.

ENGAGEMENTS.

The engagement is announced of Miss Marie J. Gross and Mr. James S. Kennedy. Both are Library workers, while Mr. Kennedy is an ex-service man who was cited for bravery in the Argonne. The date for the wedding, which will take place in the near future, is not yet announced. The Library extends its congratulations.

The engagement is also announced of Miss Josephine O'Sullivan of the Bindery and Mr. Albert J. Kelley. Mr. Kelley, who is an employee of the City of Boston, is a graduate of Amherst College, class of 1914, was commissioned first lieutenant in the first Plattsburg Camp, 1917, and served overseas. The date of the wedding is not far distant. The Library offers its heartiest good wishes.

With the Juniors

Edited by Francis P. Znotas

In the December issue of *LIBRARY LIFE* was printed a request for volunteers from the junior members of the regular day force to be sub-editors of this page. The request was answered by the boys, but no one volunteered to represent the girls. As a rule, girls are more important to a library than boys. Are the young ladies of the Boston Public Library going to sit back and let the boys get all the credit?

Frank R. Harris has been chosen to represent the boys of the regular staff.

Lately, some of the younger members of the staff have suggested the forming of a Junior Staff Club. Upon the advice of members of the Senior Club it was decided that such an organization was not needed. The average junior assistant would take so little interest in a club entirely made up of juniors that it would not be worth while to consider such a project. The average boy employed on the night force is here merely to earn a little money in his spare time to help him while attending school, and finds his social interests outside the Library.

However, on recommendation of a committee of the Staff Club, the rules have been changed so that an extra-service employee who works between the hours of 9 a.m. and 6 p.m. may become a member. This is thought better than having two organizations. Too much competition spoils harmony. Get together, those of you who are interested, and show that you appreciate the interest the seniors have taken in you.

F. R. H.

A glass jar, sent through the tubes between stacks six, five, and four, caused considerable trouble recently. Every person employed in this Library knows, or should know, better than to do that. Therefore the person who committed this misdemeanor was aware of the fact that if he had been caught he would have been discharged. Under those circumstances, such an act is inexcusable. At the last meeting Mr. Blaisdell stated that, although he

did not wish to threaten the boys, he felt that he was taking the best course by selecting a committee to watch out for these misdemeanants.

A boy must remember to notify Mr. Blaisdell, if for any reason he is not able to come to work. Recently, a boy did not appear for work because of sickness. When he did come he was suspended indefinitely. Why? Because he did not notify anyone of his sickness. Some may think this a very drastic measure, but if one stops to think: if several boys failed to appear for work at the same time, where would the help be procured? If Mr. Blaisdell is notified early enough he is frequently able to get a substitute. Therefore, be sure you notify some one in authority before you stay out.

If a stack attendant sends up, with a hall slip, any copy of a book other than the "original," he should indicate the fact on the slip. For example, if a hall slip calls for 2345.76, and you find the "A" copy, you are expected to write *A* beside the number on the slip.

During one of the December meetings, the following question was raised: "What are the duties of the 'Extra man'?" They are, first, to look up the crossed hall slips; secondly, to help out at the indicator during spare time; lastly, to do whatever else the officer-in-charge or the man at the issue desk tells him to.

QUESTION BOX.

May a boy working on the evening force join the Staff Club?

No, unless he also works in the morning or afternoon.

If a Library Card has "Non-Resident's Card" stamped on it, but no stamp prohibiting seven-day books, may the borrower take a seven-day fiction book?

Yes.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

At the December meeting of the Special Libraries Association, held on the 20th at the Edison Electric Illuminating Co. of Boston, Mr. William F. Jacob, Librarian of the General Electric Co., Schenectady, N. Y., was the principal speaker.

Mr. Jacob described, by means of lantern slides, the library system of the company. He spoke of the small way in which the library began, and told how he drew the employees into the library by means of popular magazines. Soon they began to come to him with questions, first personal, later technical, as they discovered the resources of the library.

He showed on the screen the libraries belonging to the General Electric Co. in other cities, and told of the close contact between them and the central library in Schenectady.

Translating is one of the features of his work, as many important technical and scientific articles appear in foreign languages. A regular force of translators is maintained at all times, as Mr. Jacob believes this method produces more workable translations than those made by public translators who are not experts in technical subjects. The translations are manifolded and catalogued; one copy is added to the library, and others are distributed to members of the Company staff who wish to use them.

Reading lists on any desired subject are made regularly for the use of the departments. These lists are so arranged that individual entries can be clipped and pasted on cards for personal files.

Mr. Chase, for the committee on a union catalogue of books in libraries of the Boston district, reported that the expense of such a catalogue is likely to be prohibitive. In the meantime, it may be possible to create at a central point a card catalogue of special collections of material in the libraries in and about Boston, which could be kept up to date at small expense, and which might prove very useful.

In the catalogue department of the Widener Library at Harvard University is now maintained a union catalogue of the books in all the libraries belonging to the University, together with those of the Library of Congress and the John Crerar Library of Chicago.

The Association will hold its next meeting in Perkins Hall, Women's Educational and Industrial Union, 264 Boylston St., Boston, on January 23, at 7.45 p.m. Mr. Carlos C. Houghton, of Poor's Publishing Co., New York City, will be the speaker.

LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS.

STAFF CLUB.

The Staff Club met on the evening of December 29 to listen to one of the Library's best friends, Mr. Olin Downes, musical critic of the *Boston Post*, frequently a lecturer in the Library series, and author of that popular work, "The lure of music." Mr. Downes spoke on the modern school of pianoforte music, discussing particularly the compositions of Chopin, Palmgren (*The sea*), and Cyril Scott (*Soirée japonaise*). The latter selections, with studies by Chopin and other pieces, were sympathetically played by Miss Constance McGlinchey. The speaker and the pianist were applauded again and again. Mr. John J. Cronan then entertained the company with Christmas stories, among them "How the goblin carried off a sexton" and "Tague and his red cap." Mr. Cronan came in spite of inconvenience, when he was told that, for the Staff Club, "a Cronan-less Christmas was not to be put up with." There were also songs by members of the North End Branch, Misses Olympia Cella and Annie Santosuosso, with accompaniments by Miss Eleanor Santosuosso. The attractive decorations of the room were arranged by Miss Marion A. McCarthy of the Branch Department. The evening ended with dancing and conversation, and the usual refreshments, including delicious additions kindly pre-

pared by friends of the members. There was a record attendance.

Recommendations of the Executive Committee were adopted, by which Club membership is now open to members of the staff who are not yet permanently appointed, and to junior "extras" in the day service.

The January meeting of the Club was held on Wednesday evening, January 11, to suit the convenience of the speaker, Mr. Edward J. O'Brien, editor of the well-known annual volumes of "Best short stories," who had kindly offered to address the Club. Mr. O'Brien gave an interesting talk on "The American short story in its relation to American life," in which he traced the history of this literary form, on which he is an accepted authority. In spite of the very bad weather, about forty were present at the meeting, which closed, as usual, with refreshments and a social hour.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The Benefit Association and its friends celebrated Twelfth Night, Friday evening, January 6, at The Chateau on Huntington Avenue. Upwards of three hundred people were there, distributed in the dancing hall and the card room or chatting on the lounges and in cozy corners. Mr. Clegg had provided an orchestra which there was no resisting. The Chateau is famous for its floor. Refreshments were at one's elbow. Finally, there was Miss Mabel L. Benjamin to sing and a company of selected dancers from the Boston Branch of the English Folk Dance Society, who gave a variety of exhibition dances, men's and women's Morris, a sword dance, Newcastle, and others.

Among the earliest of the guests to arrive was Judge Michael J. Murray, our most recently appointed Trustee. Dr. Mann followed very soon. There were Mr. Belden and Mr. Fleischner, as well as the heads of the various departments. Our President, Mr. William C. Maiers, Jr., who was accompanied by his daughter, Miss Winifred

Maiers, greeted everybody in most cordial fashion. By nine o'clock the tide from the Branches and Reading Rooms was at its height, and a few minutes past ten saw the last arrivals from the Central Library, who came up after closing time.

After an hour and a half of general dancing and whist, Miss Benjamin opened the entertainment with vocal selections. Her voice is rich and powerful, notwithstanding her youth, and suggests unlimited possibilities for the future. Her songs were well chosen and delighted the audience. Mr. Belden then made the happy announcement that the Association had received a check for fifty dollars, the gift of Mr. Kirstein, and introduced Judge Murray, whose love for the Library overflowed in his words. The folk dancing, which followed, was unique and full of charm, and proved so attractive that even the whist devotees were lured away from their game. However, the prizes, which were numerous and beautiful—thanks to the very generous voluntary contributions from the Central Library, the Branches, and the Reading Rooms—were finally awarded as follows: 1, Mr. George H. Earley; 2, Miss Beatrice Coleman; 3, Mrs. J. Doyle; 4, Miss M. Florence Cufflin.

After the closing number by Miss Benjamin the general dancing was resumed.

The party, which broke up at midnight, made the Association richer by \$75.24, in addition to sixty dollars received in checks as gifts.

The Secretary of the Association reports that Miss Alice McEttrick, of the South End Branch, met with an accident on January 2 which has kept her at home since that time, and that Miss Esther Lissner has been absent from the Library on account of a quinsy sore throat. Miss Maud M. Morse, of the Branch Department, Chairman of the Association's Relief Committee, was greatly missed during her recent illness. We are glad to report that Miss Mary Reynolds, of the Issue Department, was not seriously injured by the fall which kept her from her post nearly a fortnight.

News Notes

on

Government Publications

Edited by Edith Guerrier

Bulletin No. 21

January 15, 1922

Supplement to "Library Life," Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

NOTES ON THE PUBLICATIONS.

CONGRESS.

In the *Congressional Record* for November 30, 1921, Honorable Simeon D. Fess, Representative from Ohio, sums up the "Achievements of the first session of the 67th Congress." He says, "To better the farm conditions at home we have enacted some remedial legislation, (1) the packers' bill, (2) the anti-gambling grain bill. We have also increased the credit facilities for the farm by two amendments to the farm loan bill." He calls attention to the passage of the budget bill, the immigration bill, the creation of the Veterans' Bureau, and the passage of the maternity and tariff bills.

During the 139 days the House was in session 9,775 bills and resolutions were introduced. Of this number 415 were considered by Committees and reported to the House, and 152 became laws.

Honorable Finis J. Garrett, Representative from Tennessee, on the same date endeavored to show that for whatever was constructive in this legislation, the way had been paved by months of work under the previous administration.

The message of the President of the United States transmitting to the two Houses of Congress the budget for the fiscal year ending June 30, 1923, and the report of the Director of the Bureau of the Budget give the complete actual expenditures of the various Government departments (exclusive of Postal Service expenditures paid from postal revenues) for 1921, and a summary of ordinary receipts, classified by sources of revenue, for 1921, exclusive of postal revenues.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR.

The annual report of the Secretary of the Interior gives a brief history of the department from 1849 to date. The digested reports of the various Bureaus contain information not only instructive, but highly interesting.

With regard to Alaska, the Secretary writes: "Alaska's resources have not been developed for various reasons, among others, the lack of transportation, and largely because of the fact that these resources are administered through some 38 bureaus and various departments of this Government. In my opinion authority to administer the laws relative to Alaska's natural resources must be vested in some one department of this Government, that the activities charged with the administration of such laws may be properly coordinated." . . .

"One of the great national assets of this country which is being administered through a specific trust is the property of the Indians, the value of which is seldom realized. The total value of land, timber, stock, and buildings amounts to \$1,256,749,451."

Under the heading "Administrative Effort," the work which has actually been accomplished by the various bureaus is summed up in concise sentences. One particularly interesting sentence has been selected, as follows, under each heading:

General Land Office, "Patented during the year past, 10,117,809 acres."

Indian Office, "Made over 7,000 allotments to Indians on reservations and 417 on the public domain, covering in all about 1,000,000 acres."

Bureau of Pensions, "Paid for pensions, \$258,715,842.54."

Patent Office, "Total number of patents, trade marks, labels, and prints issued, 53,817."

Bureau of Education, "Printed and circulated 805,298 copies of printed bulletins, reports, and other documents, and 1,322,373 sheets of mimeographed material."

Geological Survey, "Surveyed geologically more than 4,600 square miles in detail, more than 23,000 square miles in reconnaissance surveys (about 1,500 in Alaska), and 18,000 square miles in exploratory surveys."

Reclamation Service, "Actually irrigated in 1920 more than 1,223,000 acres of arid land, covered by project statistics, producing crops valued at nearly \$66,172,000."

Bureau of Mines, "Completed and published analyses, made on a comparable basis, of representative samples of crude oil from all eastern fields and Rocky Mountain fields, thus affording purchasers a means of comparing different crudes and of judging their relative value."

National Park Service, "Handled the largest volume of tourist travel in the history of the parks: 1,007,336 visitors."

The Biennial Survey of the Bureau of Education, Vol. II, contains the complete text of the Fisher bill.

United States Geological Survey, Professional Paper 123, 1921, "A Superpower System for the Region between Boston and Washington," is a publication which should be read by every one who is interested in the economical and efficient operation of machinery which depends on an adequate power supply.

The term "superpower" is used to represent a co-ordination of energy resources which could, it is estimated, by 1930 save \$190,000,000 annually above the fixed annual charge against a capital investment of \$185,000,000 to provide the motor equipment necessary to receive and use this power.

To arrive at the conclusions drawn in this remarkable volume, 96,000 manufacturing establishments within the superpower zone were studied.

A list is given of all the electric power companies engaged in public

service in the states included in the superpower zone.

The twentieth annual report of the United States Reclamation Service contains an index covering all the annual reports issued to date. It has also a partial list of engineering articles relating to the works of the Reclamation Service, as published in engineering and technical journals.

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR.

Women's Bureau, Bulletin No. 16, "State Laws Affecting Working Women," contains a number of carefully prepared charts and six colored maps which show the "Status of Women as State Labor Officials," "Legal Working Hours for Women Daily" and "Weekly," "Night Work Hours for Women," "Minimum Wage Laws for Women," and "Mothers' Pension Laws."

An interesting instance of the helpfulness of a Government document "to be had on application" recently occurred in the Government Document Service.

A middle-aged woman, holding by the hand a small boy, asked rather diffidently if we had anything about club programs. After a due amount of questioning the facts were elicited that she had been made president of the women's club in a small town some thirty miles from Boston and had been asked to work up a program on child welfare, wherefore she had come to the Boston Public Library for help.

A letter was written to Miss Grace Abbott of the Children's Bureau, asking for suggestions. In less than a week the answer came in the form of a list of available publications, a copy of the bulletin on "Child Welfare Programs," a selection of bulletins prepared for individual mothers, and a very gracious letter from Miss Abbott saying that single copies of the publications listed would be sent to all persons applying for them.

POST OFFICE DEPARTMENT.

The Annual Report of the Postmaster General is a human sort of document. Much space, were it avail-

able, could well be devoted to this admirable report; as it is, only a few quotations can be given:—

Firm in the conviction of proven demonstration that nothing will contribute so much to the betterment of the service as the improvement of the morale and the co-operation of the men and women doing the service, I am just as fairly convinced that the one duty above all others which we owe the employees is honestly to apply the merit system. You can not expect men and women to give service if they are to be shuttlecocks of politics. I have said and I reiterate that the Postal Establishment is most certainly not an institution for politics or for profit, but an institution for service.

Personally, I favor the enactment of such legislation as will bring all postmasters into the classified service, followed by such legislation or rules as will make such classified service thoroughly amenable to discipline when necessary, and with a compensation in the more important positions sufficiently lucrative to invite the best ability in the country to strive for such positions. There are many elements of the greatest value in a situation which encourages the aspiration, and makes its consummation possible, of the boy who helps carry a mail sack, to be postmaster in New York City or Postmaster General of the United States.

The most important element in any service is the spirit of the men doing it. We are away in the Post Office service from any idea that labor is a commodity. We have had 326,000 employees in the Post Office Department; to-day we have 326,000 co-workers. When these 326,000 men and women start out determined to do this work better, nothing can stop the successful consummation of their efforts. Developments are proving this fact.

Our country still offers to Government workers the opportunity for adventure:—

The service across Rainey Pass will be carried on by means of dog teams over a very difficult and dangerous trail, necessitating the putting in of supplies along the route during favorable weather, so as to be available for the sustenance of the mail carriers and their animals during the unfavorable weather.

The difference between the expenditure and revenues of the postal service, 1837 and 1921, is as follows:

	1837	
Revenues	\$4,101,703.33	
Expenditure	3,288,319.03	
	<hr/>	
Balance due	\$ 813,384.30	
	.28	
	<hr/>	
Surplus	\$ 813,384.58	

	1921	
Expenditure	\$620,993,673.65	
Revenues	463,491,274.70	
	<hr/>	
Losses and Contingencies .	\$157,502,398.95	
	15,289.16	
	<hr/>	
Deficit	\$157,517,688.11	

If figures do not lie, Government business grows expensive.

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

The annual report of the Director of the Mint for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921, states that the gold production for the calendar year 1920 is estimated to have been \$51,186,900 and the production of silver is estimated at 55,361,573 fine ounces.

On page 274 the monetary units of the principal countries of the world are given, together with their values in units of United States money. On page 282 is given the production of gold and silver in the world since 1860.

The annual report of the Commissioner of Internal Revenue for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921, gives several pages of formulas for the denaturing of alcohol and the industrial purposes for which alcohol so denatured was used. The number of denaturing plants has increased from 7 in 1907 to 67 in 1921.

The Annual Report of the Surgeon General for the fiscal year 1921 has opposite page 320 a map showing the location of the United States Public Health Service hospitals in the United States, amounting in all to 76 hospitals.

The annual report of the United States Coast Guard states that the work of the service is of the highest importance and offers excellent opportunities to good, energetic, physically capable young men who are disposed to follow the activities in which it is engaged.

The report is teeming with plots for sea stories—the very headings of certain “cases of assistance” are suggestive:

The Experience of Kobuk-Red.
Barge “Waccamaw.”
Almost Buried Alive.
Rescue of 14 Persons.

WAR DEPARTMENT.

The annual report of the Chief Engineer, part 2, devotes ten pages to a study of the rail rates on bituminous coal. The pages of reading matter which follow are devoted to tables dealing with the water-borne, passenger, and freight traffic of the country for 1920. Comparative statistics of traffic for Boston Harbor show that in 1912 the amount handled totalled 1,989,988 tons; in 1920, 6,290,389 tons.

MISCELLANEOUS GOVERNMENT ORGANIZATIONS.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.

"Report on Shoe and Leather Costs and Prices," 1921, Chapter 2, gives prices of hides and skins, 1913-1921; prices of leather, 1913-1921; and prices of shoes, 1914-1921. Chapter 4 gives costs and profits of tanners, 1918-1919; Chapter 5, costs and profits of shoe manufacturers, 1918-1919; Chapter 6, costs and profits of shoe wholesalers and jobbers, 1918-1919; and Chapter 7, costs and profits of shoe retailers, 1918-1919. Over 50 pages of statistical tables in the appendix furnish information on practically every phase of the industry.

PANAMA CANAL ZONE.

The annual report of the Governor of the Panama Canal for the fiscal year ended June 30, 1921, gives the story of the year's work, under the headings, "Canal Operations and Trade via Panama," "Business Operations," "Government," "Administration," "Financial and Statistical Statements."

PHILIPPINE LEGISLATURE.

Volume 4, Part 1, of the Census of the Philippine Islands, gives social and judicial statistics and figures covering manufactures and household industries, commerce and transportation, banks, banking institutions and currency, insurance companies, schools and universities. In the chapter on libraries it is stated that the number of public libraries in the Islands has increased from 12 in 1903 to 360 in 1918, with a total number of 576,142 volumes.

Volume 1 of this set, which covers geography, history and climatology,

and Volume 2, which covers population and mortality, have not yet been issued.

Volume 3, Agriculture, has been received.

THE PRESIDENT'S CONFERENCE ON UNEMPLOYMENT.

The report of the President's Conference on Unemployment, September 26 to October 13, 1921, gives the approximate index numbers for August, 1921 (based upon 100 for 1913), of the various commodities which figure in the "cost of living."

The report comments on these figures as follows:

In the field of all the different industries and occupations the rapidity of recovery will depend greatly upon the speed of proportionate adjustment of the inequalities in deflation. A table is attached hereto, drawn from various sources, showing the percentage of present levels above the levels of the same commodities and services of the pre-war period. It will be observed that agriculture has reached an unduly low plane, while transportation, coal, and some branches of the construction industries are of the highest. It will also be observed that there is an entire disproportion between the price of the primary commodities and the ultimate retail price. These disproportionate increases in the progressive stages of distribution are due to increased costs of transportation, enlarged profits, interest, taxes, labor, and other charges.

An abstract from the report of the Economic Advisory Committee gives seventeen suggestions regarding some things to be avoided and some things to be emphasized in considering the unemployment relief problem.

UNITED STATES SHIPPING BOARD.

The annual report of the United States Shipping Board, June 30, 1921, contains an admirable definition, clearly and concisely put, of the functions of the Board. This definition is followed by a description of the work performed during the past year, which was concerned primarily with the building up of our merchant marine. A number of charts are given, showing development of United States shipping in foreign trade, growth of ship building in the United States, 1813 to 1921, etc.

On page 268 is a table of shipping lines running out of United States ports to foreign countries.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume I, No. 5

February 15, 1922

CONTENTS.

AN OPEN LETTER	49	A SPONTANEOUS TRIBUTE	57
WHAT IS A LIBRARIAN?	49	WITH THE JUNIORS	58
THE LIBRARY CLUB MEETING	52	OUR NEIGHBOR LIBRARIES	59
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LIBRARY MEET- ING	55	ANNOUNCEMENTS	60
ADDRESSES BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF	55		
EDITORIALS	56		
NOTES	56		

SUPPLEMENT.

NEWS NOTES ON GOVERNMENT PUBLI- CATIONS, No. 22	*17 - *20
--	-----------

AN OPEN LETTER.

To the Editor:

The members of the Examining Committee of 1921-22 are unanimous in wishing to say that they feel genuine appreciation and gratitude towards the personnel of the Public Library Staff, both at the Central Library and at the Branches and Reading Rooms throughout the city, for the unfailing courtesy and helpfulness with which they were greeted while discharging their duties. This spirit of generous co-operation was of the greatest assistance to them, and, in itself, constitutes the pleasantest and most encouraging fact that came under their observation. They feel that the City of Boston is to be congratulated in having one of its most important departments served by so loyal a company of workers, and desire to assure all members of the staff that, to this extent at least, their spirit of co-operation is gratefully recognized.

Very truly yours,

W. H. DOWNES,

Vice-Chairman.

WHAT IS A LIBRARIAN?

In the Informal Talk given at the Library on Thursday, January 19, Mr. George H. Evans, of the Somerville Public Library, discussed the question, What is a librarian? He began his talk

with a rather elaborate definition of the librarian, which he amplified point by point. He then proceeded to determine the functions of a librarian by a consideration of the underlying purpose of his work. In this connection Mr. Evans told a number of suggestive

facts in regard to the origin of the public library in America, which he described as "an outstanding and distinctive feature of the growth of democracy."

In the period immediately following the American Revolution there was in this country, particularly in New England, a vigorous movement toward the widening of education. "The public school system served only elementary needs. The cry was for an agency that should meet the needs of all ages, classes and economic conditions." Mr. Evans gave an interesting account of the early voluntary associations of persons, each owning a few books, who pooled them for the common good. In New Hampshire alone there were incorporated between 1792 and 1800 fifty-seven of these "social libraries." Before 1830 their number had increased to two hundred and nineteen. This meant a librarian for every 1230 people in the State of New Hampshire.

This preliminary step was followed by the development of the municipally supported free public library, of which our own institution was the most conspicuous early example. "Knowledge was what these pioneers were after, and the books they collected were emphatically books of knowledge. Only comparatively late in the library's development was the recreational function, expressed mainly in the use of fiction, grafted upon the parent stalk."

Mr. Evans proceeded to the question, What does the public of to-day expect from the Library? "First of all it must be a great and inexhaustible storehouse of knowledge. It must also be available as a laboratory or workshop for study and research. Again, the people decree that in addition to its graver intellectual purposes, the library shall afford a center for mental recreation, where a cultural type of entertainment may be secured at minimum cost, and leisure spent under wholesome conditions. Beyond all these activities, the library is rapidly expanding into an agency for social and community service of great variety and value. Lectures, university extension courses, and the teaching of the principles of Ameri-

can citizenship to aliens are examples. All are educational."

"The library works with and alongside the school through the years of childhood and youth, but it does not stop with maturity. It provides a continuation school, or reservoir of knowledge, for all the years of one's life." Its educational mission is so commonly recognized that the library has become known as "the people's university."

With this ideal in mind, Mr. Evans went on to describe the education which a librarian ought to have if he is to perform his work effectively. He emphasized the fact that with the growing vision of the educational functions of the public library and with the development of professional schools for training in librarianship, it is inevitable that the higher positions in libraries shall be filled more and more by those who have received professional training. He urged the importance of acquiring such training upon all who hope to achieve distinction in the library field.

The last portion of Mr. Evans's talk was especially suggestive. It concerned what he called the "professional mind." He said:

"There are only two questions about one's prospective occupation: 'What can I bring to it?' 'What will it bring to me?' The first relates to our equipment and to the practice of our calling. It is a matter of concern to all who view a task well-done with the satisfaction of the skilled craftsman. It characterizes just as truly the carpenter who, driving home his nail straight and true, makes no hammer mark on the wood, or the sculptor who, chipping with mallet and chisel, leaves no trace of the tool upon the marble. That this question of what we can bring to our calling is so often forgotten is our reproach, and a clog under the wheels of progress.

"The other question, 'What will it bring to me?' is never forgotten, but is too often interpreted only in terms of dollars. Someone has said that 'Labor receives wages, mind receives rewards.' It would be idle to deny that the wages of library work are poor. No one well-

informed of existing conditions goes into it for pecuniary returns. On the other hand its rewards are both rich and satisfying to one who looks beyond the pay envelope.

"The happiness of work is conditioned upon what we bring to it. All that we bring is returned to us with the increment of growth—growth of power, of vision, of faith. Growth is the dividend which life pays on the investment of self in service. The measure in which we receive these rewards is determined by our mental attitude toward our work. The librarian's whole career should be a steady growth.

"One of the highest forms of happiness is found in self-expression. It is a reaction to the creative instinct implanted in us by nature. To bring into the world some new thing, be it ever so slight, gives peculiar satisfaction. The librarian's daily work is replete with problems to solve, each one different from any other, each with its own challenge to ingenuity and resourcefulness. He may, and indeed must, learn certain principles and methods, but each problem of human nature is an original one, to which accumulated experience and wisdom must supply the solution. Such demands upon one's resources tend always toward growth.

"The work of the librarian is constructive. He is one of the world's builders. But his work is intangible. Therein lies the weakness of its appeal to public esteem and support. It commends itself to the thoughtful, but the thoughtful are in the minority. It is not possible to measure its results in physical units. We cannot annually report to the taxpayers tons of citizenship, car-loads of knowledge, calories of ambition, or acres of character. Men come with their problems, are served, and depart; students bring their questions; children are taught manners, cleanliness, respect for law, order, and public property. As individuals they pass out of our ken into the great ocean of people. What the man does with his knowledge, what the student achieves with his awakened ambition, what

manner of man the child grows into, we do not know. Such things are not measurable. They are handed on and permeate the fibre of the nation. But the librarian believes that to dispel ignorance, to instill the civilities of life, to arouse ambition, to build character, is to lift life to a higher plane and to make it more livable. The day's work, therefore, he does not do primarily for the day's wage to end with the day, but with a pride of workmanship and faith in a continuous creative process, the building of the larger structure of life.

"We desire to become librarians, perhaps, because we love the atmosphere of books. By and by we acquire the professional mind, after we have begun to see the vision of service. Books then cease to be in themselves an end, and become a means to a worthier end. When we have outgrown the stage of merely working at a job for so much a week, then we become professional-minded, then we suddenly discover for ourselves a new world of happiness in service.

"David Belasco, the great dramatic producer, recently made the following statement: 'I believe that God meant us to work . . . I believe that He meant that we should earn our living by the sweat of our brow. But I believe that He meant us to love our work so much that we might play at it, find real and profound pleasure in it . . . The curse of our times is the vast army of people who care nothing for their work, who labor solely for money.'

"The librarian's calling is a mission of service, universal in its application, requiring much, and paying rewards in kind. Never more than now has there been need of maintaining standards in all lines of work. I commend to your thoughtful attention the ancient wisdom of the seer: 'Where there is no vision the people perish.' I cannot wish you any better fortune in the pursuit of your chosen occupation than that you shall have the professional mind, whereby you shall find pleasure in your work and thus add to the sum of happiness that life holds in trust for you."

THE LIBRARY CLUB MEETING.

The Lecture Hall of the Library was two-thirds filled on Friday, February 3, when the Massachusetts Library Club opened the morning session of its mid-winter meeting, which was devoted to the general topic of "Music and the Library." The President, Mr. Harold T. Dougherty of the Newton Free Library, introduced Dr. Alexander Mann, who welcomed the assembled librarians with words of encouragement about their chosen work. Librarians of to-day, he said, are engaged in a co-operative, not a competitive, line of business. Progress in the efficiency and influence of our sister institutions is a matter for unselfish rejoicing by all of us. The library represents a great silent, but effective force in modern life.

"The habit of reading seems to be increasing. The Boston Public Library, which two years ago showed a gain in circulation of 80,000, last year made an increase of 200,000. The tide is with us, rising, bringing work. So far from being the supporters of a losing cause, librarians to-day are the spokesmen of a growing intellectual and moral impulse."

Dr. Root, president of the American Library Association, who followed Dr. Mann, counselled as follows:

"If we librarians aspire to be one of the educational forces of the state, we must first have standards for our profession. Granted that all kinds of qualifications are recognized as fitting for librarianship, we should insist upon educational standards, that only those imbued with the spirit of the educator should find a place in the ranks. Only when librarians adopt the same course as have the teachers and the physicians can we hope to be generally recognized as members of a profession.

"Second, adequate places of training must be provided, curricula built up, scholarships founded. Then, after getting well-equipped people into the profession, we must see to it that they do not stagnate in it. The present-day cry of 'Where are the cataloguers?' is

but a natural reaction against monotony of occupation. Give our workers change, opportunity for growth, if we are to keep them at their best. Let the cataloguers have reference work, let those of the shelf-list department be brought in contact with the public. A sense of responsibility, of public service, should be developed, and every opportunity of gathering for the discussion of topics should be encouraged."

Dr. Root then spoke of the victrola as an aid in raising musical standards, and told how, by means of it, the lover of jazz can be led to appreciate the classics. The same thing is true in the world of books.

"If, then, we have standards and training schools, and plan our work so as not to allow stagnation, every library assistant should aim to accomplish some one task which shall have its part in the work of the world. Lest our activity become diffuse and indefinite, each one should strive to attain depth in some particular line of work. We must know which books are authoritative and why, and which books are for the beginner and why. Intelligent guidance comes only from the man who knows. Each of us should aspire, not only to be an authority in some special field worth knowing, but to publish that knowledge, so that others may step forward on it and may read and know in us intelligent guides for the community."

OUR OWN MUSIC COLLECTION.

Miss Duncan, of our own Music Library, told of the Allen A. Brown Collection and of its founder, Mr. Allen Augustus Brown, for whom it is named. The collection as such came into being in 1894, with the removal of the Boston Public Library to its new building. Prior to that time music had come to the Library partly through gifts consisting of collections of old songs, piano music, standard operas, and orchestral scores. But music had never been well represented in the Library.

Then Mr. Brown made the unique gift of his collection, gathered together

by his own personal effort, and turned over to the Library for the use of the public during his lifetime. He stipulated that it was to be for reference only, and reserved the right to add to it, which he did to the extent of some 300 volumes a year up to the time of his death. His idea was always to make a good working library for the student and the musician, not a collection of rarities.

In speaking of the personality of Mr. Brown, Miss Duncan told how the habit of collecting had begun with him years before, while he was an undergraduate at college. Then his interest lay chiefly in the drama. But in time music came to be supreme. With unremitting industry he pasted, on blank leaves inserted in the scores, clippings, autograph letters from composers, concert tickets, programs, and criticisms of performances. Parts of chamber music were carefully assembled, as the basis for a full score, to be laboriously copied by Mr. Brown's own hand; notes give the dates and places where the work of copying was begun or finished. Sometimes this was on the steamer on which he made his annual crossing to and from Europe, or in a hotel abroad, where he stayed in search of musical treasures gleaned from the second-hand shops or auction sales.

Contrary to popular belief, Mr. Brown was not a Croesus. A New Englander, trained to the law, he went every day to his office in the city. But in the afternoon on three days a week he came to the Library and worked on his collection. There he watched the fruits of his labor being shared by the users of the Library, and much real pleasure came to him from their appreciation.

Since Mr. Brown's death, the Library has continued to buy on lines similar to those followed by him. The clipping and pasting is necessarily kept up in only a slight degree. Scores of all the symphonies performed in Boston are obtained and made available to the public the week before the concert. Often, in the case of a work which is having its première in Boston or perhaps in this country, and for which

there is no time to import the score, a copy is borrowed from the Library of Congress and placed in the Music Room. Programs of prominent symphony orchestras all over the country are currently received. The Library takes 26 musical periodicals, and important articles in these are catalogued and the cards filed under the proper subject headings.

In closing, Miss Duncan mentioned the campaign for the improvement of music in the churches, which is being carried on by a committee under the chairmanship of Mr. Wallace Goodrich. Compulsory music courses in theological schools are a part of the work of this movement, as well as an organists' reference section in libraries.

Miss Lydia W. Masters of the Watertown Free Public Library and Miss Helen B. Bangs of the Fitchburg Public Library told of how music had come to take its place beside the books in their respective libraries.

Then came Mr. Tripp of New Bedford, who said another good word for the victrola. The time will come, he believes, when libraries will distribute records as they now do books. In this direction lies a great opportunity to benefit the community.

THE AFTERNOON SESSION.

The afternoon session opened with a paper by Mr. William Arms Fisher, editor and publishing manager of the Oliver Ditson Co. The title of his paper was "Music and the Public Library." An abstract of Mr. Fisher's lecture follows:

Massachusetts has always been a literary centre, and great attention has been paid to education; but our educators have rather neglected the arts and music. In the past fifteen years, however, music has come to be considered less an emotional spree and more an integral part of the adventure of life itself. It is now recognized as a language which should be studied for mental discipline and sense training.

In 1836 the first sight-singing school was held, under the leadership of the pioneer, Lowell Mason. For seventy-five years music in the schools was

only vocal (or *un-vocal* sometimes), but within the last few years a greater appreciation of the value of all kinds of music has been felt and a vast field has been opened to the music student. Courses in music have been offered in many high schools; there are not only courses in appreciation, but piano, violin and orchestral instruments are taught during school hours and form part of the regular curriculum. Music is no longer a luxury for the well-to-do, for musical training may be obtained at public expense.

Now what are libraries doing to meet the growing need for music? All over the country they are appropriating part of their available funds for the purchase of more musical books, literature as well as the music itself. Large city libraries, notably those of Boston, New York, Chicago, Detroit, and San Francisco, have music collections, well catalogued and very complete. San Francisco has an interesting feature, a sound-proof room where music may be played. The Public Library of Oakland, California, has a music section dating from thirty years ago, and now supplies the choirs of the city with church music.

At the close of Mr. Fisher's talk there were distributed copies of the helpful "Lists of Music for Public Libraries," which he has compiled for the convenience of librarians.

"MARGOT."

Mr. Fisher was interrupted in the course of his address by Mr. Belden, who escorted Mrs. Asquith to the stage. A visitor to Boston and to the Library on this day, she graciously complimented her hearers on our beautiful building and went her way. She visualized, in the few moments of her stay, what we had all read of in her memoirs, the magical presence of "Margot."

Professor John P. Marshall of Boston University was the next speaker. He changed the wording of the title of his lecture so that it read "Musical *opportunities* of a Public Library," and emphasised the fact that librarians have the opportunity and the power to

educate the popular taste. According to his experience, the public is not devoted to "jazz," or to the ephemeral music of the present day, if something better is to be had. The library, presumably, will buy only the best, so that librarians have the chance to interest people in truly good music.

Following is a list of what Professor Marshall suggests that libraries ought to have:

1. A collection of good music, including piano, vocal, violin and orchestral music, if possible.
2. A collection of reference books (appreciation, history, etc.).
3. A collection of pianola rolls and phonograph records for circulation.
4. A bulletin board, on which may be posted notices of concerts and musical information in general.

But one more number remained on the program for the afternoon session. Up to that time, the librarians and educators had talked to their audience about music. Mr. Geoffrey O'Hara seated himself at the piano and made that audience feel what music is. As a preface to his remarks, he sang two songs, "Give a man a horse" and Drummond's "Little Bateese," to accompaniments written by himself and played with a rare lightness of touch.

MUSIC FOR THE MASSES.

"Music for the masses" was his subject, and he told graphically of how this country is going music-mad, of how rhythm and percussion have laid hold of everybody, of how the untrained and the musically uncultured are buying saxophones and trombones and fiercely beating out for themselves the measures of the all-powerful "jazz." With this nation-wide movement, the educational work strives to keep pace, — the schools, the libraries, the community workers. Mr. O'Hara told of his visit to the Philadelphia Academy of Music on a week-day afternoon, when this beautiful temple of music, with its perfect acoustic properties, was peopled only by himself, a janitor, and a carpenter. But throughout the city fifty vaudeville houses and picture palaces were pounding jazz before

capacity audiences. Again, a successful community worker, in a city which numbers a million souls, told with reasonable pride of her Sunday afternoon gatherings where five thousand people came regularly to sing good music. It did seem wonderful to think of, those five thousand singers, till Mr. O'Hara asked where were the other 995,000. Were they not in the motion picture houses and the Sunday vaudeville concerts all over the city and listening to jazz?

For those who know, there are rhythms to be found in a Liszt Hungarian Rhapsody as moving as any other kind. Mr. O'Hara told with satisfaction of a small-town volunteer orchestra who began their practising, unanimously in favor of Irving Berlin, but who were shortly, under proper guidance, led to appreciate Beethoven.

Mr. O'Hara said that it was impossible to justify the use of the word "classical" as implying music of the better sort. He, too, pointed out the value of the victrola in developing appreciation and recommended to his hearers the policy of toleration,—not to seek to annihilate jazz, but gradually to lead the way to other things. Just as librarians are doing with books, so they may do with music, and always they must bear in mind that we must go where people are if we wish to take them where we think they ought to go. C. H.

CHAMBER OF COMMERCE LIBRARY MEETING.

A meeting was held in the reading-room of the Boston Chamber of Commerce on Thursday afternoon, February 2, for the discussion of "Information Resources of Greater Boston." Mr. Everett Morss, President of the Chamber, presided, and introduced Mr. Belden, who in turn presented the other speakers. Dr. Alexander Mann spoke for the Boston Public Library, Mr. Harold T. Dougherty, President of the Massachusetts Library Club, outlined the library resources of the cities and towns surrounding Boston, and Mr. D. N. Handy, of the Insurance

Library, told of the special libraries of the Boston district as sources of information.

The "Extension Service," under the guidance of Mr. George Winthrop Lee, had compiled a variety of information about sources of knowledge of various types, which was available at the meeting. Figures published by Mr. Lee in the *Boston Transcript* of February 1 show that there are 125 public libraries, including branch libraries, in the cities and towns within a ten-mile radius of the State House. These libraries contain 2,795,000 volumes, of which 1,302,000 are in the Boston Public Library and its 31 branches.

ADDRESSES BY MEMBERS OF THE STAFF.

A number of members of the Library staff have spoken in public during the past two months. A list follows, so far as it has been possible to compile it:

MISS GUERRIER:

Sunday, February 12, Trinity House, Boston, "The Federal Government."

Monday, Feb. 13, Public Library, Providence, R. I., "Problems of a Branch Librarian."

Wednesday, Feb. 15, Women's Municipal League, School for Social Workers, Boston, "How the Librarian can be of help to the School Visitor."

MISS JORDAN:

Monday, Dec. 5, Bookshop for Boys and Girls, Boston, "Books for the Holiday Season."

Tuesday, Dec. 6, Parent-Teachers' Association, Wakefield, Mass., "Reading for Boys and Girls."

Wednesday, Dec. 7, Neighborhood Library Round Table, Weston, Mass., "Recent Books for Children."

Thursday, Dec. 15, Hood Parent-Teachers' Association, Lawrence, Mass., "Children's Reading."

MR. CHASE:

Saturday, Jan. 21, Women's City Club, Boston, "The Special Collections of the Boston Public Library."

Sunday, Feb. 5, Museum of Fine Arts, Boston, "The Acropolis of Athens."

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. I, No. 5.

Feb. 15, 1922

REWARDS IN KIND.

We are all underpaid. It has always been so, and it looks as if there were no immediate prospect of change in our lot. The library worker's fate is a hard one.

Mr. Evans and Mr. Root say this is true in public libraries, Mr. Houghton tells the same story for the business library; no one takes the claims of librarians very seriously.

Is there no hope, no ray of light anywhere? Is the library employee condemned to a life of gloom, with no source of comfort? Mr. Evans points out what we all need to remember, that the librarian's task is not merely a public job, but "a mission of public service, requiring much, but paying rewards in kind"; and further, that "growth is the dividend which life pays on the investment of self in service."

We invest our money, and expect a money return; if we invest ourselves, shall we not look primarily for a "return in kind"—that is, wider knowledge, more skill, more personality, to invest again and again for the same purpose?

Two forms of compensation are within the grasp of every one of us. The first combines the pride of the artist in his mastery and the delight of the athlete in the use of his muscles with the satisfaction of the doctor when he has saved a life, or the content of the teacher as he sees the development of his pupils.

The second type of reward comes in the form of appreciation. A member of the Library staff has recently de-

fined service as "nothing more than treating the other fellow as you would like to have him treat you." Every now and then we are made to feel that we have rendered this sort of service, and that "the other fellow" appreciates it, and we go home from the Library with a sense of warmth that even our weekly pay does not give. And once in a while the appreciation comes in a public form, that repays us for years of patient effort.

We are all proud with Miss Morse in the recognition that came to her on St. Valentine's Day. Money is good; but it is not, we all feel sure, the money that was given to her that will make that day memorable to Miss Morse.

Invest yourself in service if you want to find life worth while.

The Library is grateful for the letter of appreciation printed on the front page of this issue of LIBRARY LIFE. Not all of the Library employees had an opportunity to meet the members of the Examining Committee; but it is gratifying to know that the Committee received such a pleasant impression of us. Returning their compliment, we may say that the Committee, through its Vice-Chairman (Dr. Mann being *ex officio* Chairman), has done a very kind and gracious act in writing this letter.

Susan Power is no more. The members of the Library staff will miss her brave presence about the building. For many lonely years, the Library was home to Mrs. Power, as to many another gifted soul, who has been thrown to one side by the swiftness of life's current. Mrs. Power had been a journalist all the best years of her life, and still had the impulse to write. She was always cheerful, and concealed the ache that was often at her heart; one little guessed that she was a grandmother, and eighty.

Two members of our Library family have recently met with severe losses. Mrs. Jane Kelley, mother of Mr. James J. Kelley, of the Janitor Department, died on January 28, aged 77 years.

Mr. George H. Aker, father of Mr. George V. Aker, of the Printing Department, passed away on February 12, aged 67 years. Their fellow-employees of the Library extend warm sympathy to both Mr. Kelley and Mr. Aker.

In the report of the Nominating Committee of the American Library Association, which has recently been made public, Mr. Belden is nominated for the office of President of the Association. In justice to his duties as Librarian, and as Director of the Division of Public Libraries of the State Department of Education, he has felt obliged to withdraw his name. We regret that he is not now to have this honor, and that the Association is not to have his services as President.

Miss Agnes C. Doyle's suggestive paper on "A Co-operative Index of Coats of Arms," read at Swampscott last June, appeared as the leading article in the *Library Journal* for Dec. 15, 1921.

A SPONTANEOUS TRIBUTE.

On Tuesday afternoon, February 14, Miss Carrie L. Morse, Librarian of the West Roxbury Branch, was the recipient of a most gratifying token of appreciation from those who use the Branch, in the shape of a check for a substantial amount. In presenting the gift to Miss Morse, on behalf of the contributors, Mr. Belden spoke as follows:

In the course of a year the executive head of a large library has many duties to perform, duties both pleasant and unpleasant. This afternoon it is my privilege, in representing a large number of the citizens of West Roxbury, to perform a most pleasant duty.

The residents of this community are looking forward with anticipation to the installation of the West Roxbury Branch Library in its new building, a building that promises to be a model branch library both from the point of view of the architect and the Librarian. It was the expectation that its dedica-

tion would have taken place before this time. Your many friends, however, Miss Morse, have felt that it was better not longer to postpone the evidence of their appreciation of your faithful services and of your many admirable qualities that go to the making of a good librarian—an evidence of their regard and affectionate good will for you.

I have been asked to hand you this check, which represents donations from many of the users and friends of this Branch Library. It will be an especial gratification to you to learn that most, if not all of the residents of the community who have made use of the Library, have had their part in the making up of the sum here represented. It will please you too, I know, to learn that no one was permitted to give a large amount, that in fact small donations and small donations only were sought. The smallest contribution came from a little tot who gave two cents, really hot pennies from inside the mitten of a seven-year old. This child and other young persons have expressed their gratitude to you, Miss Morse, and not a few "grown-ups" have given you the credit for having placed their feet on the right reading path when they were young in years. What finer tribute could be offered to any librarian?

This gift, freely given, represents an outpouring of the affectionate regard of the community; it is a tribute to your efficiency, your loyalty, and the esteem in which you are held.

To-day is the day of St. Valentine. What better day could there be for the presentation of such a greeting—the day of the festival of lovers. The members of this community—men, women and children—are in a very real sense your well-wishers, your devoted friends, your library lovers. I esteem it an honor to be the bearer of their good will, and I know that not only the members of your staff, but all the members of the staff of the Boston Public Library, will rejoice in this happy and deserved tribute to the respected Librarian of the West Roxbury Branch Library.

With the Juniors

Edited by Francis P. Znotas

THE JUNIOR STAFF.

Miss Edith J. Daly will receive all contributions to *LIBRARY LIFE* from the girls on the day force. Frank R. Harris will take care of those from the boys on the day force. All other articles will be received by Francis P. Znotas. If the readers of this page will co-operate, we shall be successful. *You* know what you want to read about better than we do. Send in your contribution immediately, and keep sending more. Remember this is *your* page. Will *you* write for it?

HELP YOURSELF.

A junior is a junior. True. The junior is the coming senior. Teach the junior and you have taught the senior. Such is the purpose of the Thursday morning lectures to the junior staff. A chance is being given the younger assistants to learn from the experience of others the fundamentals of librarianship.

Up to date the attendance has been very good. Even some of the seniors have displayed interest enough to pass through and listen a few moments, if not to spend the whole hour in attendance.

If the interest that has thus far shown itself keeps up, the undertaking is bound to bear fruit. It is a new idea that has been introduced and I am sure it will be hailed as a success at the end of the course.

In order to stimulate the juniors a competition has been arranged. For the best paper each month on the three preceding lectures the prize of a book is being offered. In addition to this, at the end of the course prizes of \$15 and \$10 will be given to the authors of the two best papers based on the whole course.

Surely these prizes should rouse enough interest to make the course successful, even if the desire for knowledge is not a sufficient incentive. Let's all get together and show that we appreciate the chance that is given us.

F. R. H.

THE CHILDREN'S ROOM SYSTEM.

I.

There are several boys employed in the Library who understand the system in the Children's Room; but only a very few of them know it thoroughly. Since every boy on the evening force may at some time or other be called on to work there, it may be helpful to read the following outline.

Behind the issue desk are three ranges of Fairy Tales. We will discuss these first. How can you tell the difference between a Fairy Tale and a Fiction book? First, as a rule, the Fairy Tales are numbered Z 40 h, while the fiction numbers begin with Z F. The numbers in question may be found on the inside of the front cover. However, there are a number of books kept on these Fairy Tale shelves which bear fiction numbers. In these cases, the boy putting up the books has to judge by the title whether it should be placed on a Fiction shelf or on a Fairy Tale shelf. The Fairy Tales are kept in alphabetical order according to the author. This rule does not hold good, however, when an anonymous book or one with several authors or editors is concerned. For example, "The Arabian Nights" is kept on the shelf with books by authors whose names begin with the letter A. Of course, when an author writes under a pen-name, his works are placed under his real name: Dodgson writes as Lewis Carroll, but his books are kept under Dodgson. All books relating to Richard Wagner's works are placed under Wagner, regardless of the editor's or writer's name. All copies of Aesop's fables are placed under Aesop, regardless of the editor. "The Diamond Fairy Book" is kept under "Diamond." The popular "Blue," "Green," "Yellow," etc., books, are placed under Lang, their author. When a writer is the author of several books, all of them are placed under his name, according to rule, but after that they are arranged alphabetically by title.

F. P. Z.

Our Neighbor Libraries

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

At the January meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston the chief speaker was Mr. Carlos C. Houghton, of Poor's Publishing Company, New York.

Mr. Houghton, after giving a very entertaining account of his numerous futile attempts to stay in library work, attempts defeated each time because he was considered too good to be wasted on the library, protested that we must make executives realize that men cannot be too good for the library. He went on to speak of some of the ways of doing this.

The chief of these he considered to be the getting together of a group of strong business librarians with a definite idea of what they were to be to their employers; then he added the need of advertising, advertising the possibilities of service which a business librarian should be expected to perform.

He said that it is not enough for a librarian to collect and catalogue material, and bring it to the notice of those who might be interested. He must, if he is to become an asset and not a liability to his firm, know, as no other man knows, the strength and weaknesses of all the departments of the business. "The business librarian should give more of his time to producing results and less to collecting information and making it available."

"Something must be done to make the business man expect dollar and cent results from our work; then when he gets it he will not pull us out of the library, but will make the librarian *ex officio* a member of every department. This can be accomplished, and if the profession is ever to gain the rank to which it is entitled, it must be accomplished. We have never "sold" our profession to the business world, and it must be sold. There was never a better time to sell it."

"Business men are to some extent employing business librarians, but as I

have said, they are not thoroughly "sold" on the proposition, and, by the way, are not, therefore, getting full value. If they were sold . . . they would see to it that they did get full value. Just now we have not any standard."

The business man, Mr. Houghton feels, should be able to judge the business librarian, even if other librarians be beyond him. "My plea to-night is that you get together and put the business man in a position to judge; tell him what to expect."

He spoke of the business man's ignorance of the most ordinary sources of information, government documents, general reference books, special periodicals, etc.

Advertising, he thought, might well be handled through the national and local Special Libraries Associations, as it was handled in the case of the raisin industry, which he cited. The supply of raisins exceeded the market, so the associations got together and advertised, not that they had raisins to sell, but that people needed raisins. They told of the iron in this fruit, and their slogan, "Have you had your iron today?", did the work.

The general conclusion was that we must have something to "sell," then sell it, by advertising and by service.

Mr. Houghton was followed by Mr. James D. Brennan of the First National Bank, Mr. Charles F. Gettemy of the Federal Reserve Bank, Mr. Wallace V. Plummer of the Old Colony Trust Company, and Mr. Herbert E. Stone of the Second National Bank. These gentlemen told of their experiences with bank libraries, described the small beginnings of their libraries, and gave us an idea of what they expected of them, now that they had become established.

The February meeting of the Special Libraries Association will be held in the library of the Boston University School of Law, 11 Ashburton Place, on Monday evening, February 27, at 7.45. Mr. John E. Hannigan, a Trustee of the Social Law Library, will speak on "Law Libraries."

Announcements

STAFF CLUB.

For its second dramatic performance of the season 1921-22, the Staff Club will present on Tuesday evening, February 28, a romance in one act entitled "Swimmin' Pools." Francis P. Znotas, editor of the Junior Page of *LIBRARY LIFE*, appears as the "Kid"; Frank R. Harris as the "Nut"; Thomas Manning is "The Sheriff". William Buckley is "English"; and Monsour H. Laham, "The Man." They are rehearsing practically all the time outside of Library and study hours. There will be music and refreshments, as well as dancing, after the play. Every member of the Club should be present to see this play given by the Juniors. The evening's hospitality will be in charge of a committee consisting of Miss Della J. Deery, Miss Mary V. Doyle, and Mr. George C. Johnson.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

A committee of fifteen, with Mr. James J. Kelley as Chairman, has been appointed to make plans for a fitting celebration of the approaching twentieth anniversary of the organization of the Employees' Benefit Association. The committee is already at work, and announces that the celebration will take the form of a dinner, to be held sometime in May.

The Secretary of the Benefit Association reports that President William C. Maiers, of the Association, has been absent from work a week, on account of illness; that Miss Alice M. Jordan, of the Children's Department, has just returned to the Library, after an attack of influenza which kept her at home for three weeks; that Miss Isabel E. Wetherald, of the Mount Bowdoin Branch, who has been ill a great deal during the past year, has again been obliged to leave her duties; that Miss Maud M. Morse, the faithful secretary of the Relief Committee, is again at home, recovering from an

attack of ptomaine poisoning; and that Miss Palmira Picuolo has returned to work, after a severe attack of tonsillitis. Miss Fanny Goldstein, of the Tyler Street Reading Room, has just undergone a serious operation, which will necessitate her absence from her post for some time.

Miss Angeline Hovestadt, who was employed for a time in the office of the Library Auditor, has been recently placed in charge of the post-card counter. Miss Hovestadt is an experienced typewriter, and it is expected that she will be able to assist the Post-card Committee in carrying on a campaign of advertising for the publications of the Association, which will lead to wider sales.

On February 1, the Mount Bowdoin Reading Room (Station F) was raised to the status of a Branch Library. A historical sketch of the new Branch will appear in the next issue of *LIBRARY LIFE*.

Mrs. Evelyn L. Warren, Librarian of the Townsend, Mass., Public Library, will speak on the subject "Duties and Rewards of the Village Librarian" in the series of Informal Talks to Junior Assistants on Thursday, April 13.

A new supplement entitled *Ten-Book List* made its appearance in the Weekly Bulletin of February 4. This is intended as a finding list of recent works on subjects of current interest or constant demand. Each list will be prepared by a person specially familiar with the subject, and annotations will be made when the title does not fully indicate the scope of the book. Nos. 1-3 include: Essays of 1921, United States History, and Interior Decoration. No. 4 (Feb. 26) will contain Recent Memoirs and Autobiographies.

Copies of these lists are inserted in the Bates Hall catalogue, as aids to the selection of the best recent books on the topics covered.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume I, No. 6

March 15, 1922

CONTENTS.

AMENITIES OF A CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN	61	CURRENT CITY DIRECTORIES	68
AN EXHIBITION OF MUSIC	63	REVIEWS	69
MT. BOWDOIN BRANCH	64	WITH THE JUNIORS	70
PINS CRASH!	65	OUR NEIGHBOR LIBRARIES	71
"HOW I BECAME A LIBRARIAN"	65	LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS	72
EDITORIALS	66		
LOREN N. DOWNS, JR.	67	SUPPLEMENT.	
THE DICKENS EXHIBITION	68	NEWS NOTES ON GOVERNMENT PUBLI-	
		CATIONS, No. 23	*21 - *24

AMENITIES OF A CHILDREN'S LIBRARIAN.

On Thursday, Feb. 16, Mrs. Mary E. Root, Children's Librarian in the Providence Public Library, gave a delightfully vivacious "Informal Talk," which was full of contagious enthusiasm. She said in part:

Just after the war I was forced to take a three months' vacation, and for the first time in about eighteen years I had a chance to see the library in a sort of detached way. When you are working all day, the library seems to occupy the whole horizon; you don't see yourself in relation to other things. I am going to pass on to you some of the things that occurred to me then, to make me glad that I am a children's librarian.

First, there is the contact with leaders in your chosen field, who are an inspiration to you; second, is the privilege of working with those who are young and strong. The work widens your interest in people; it broadens your sympathies and forces your mind into new channels; it makes you become a student of good salesmanship; it gives you the deep satisfactions of a

story-teller; it steadily adds to your intelligent interest in book reviews and artists and publishers; it teaches the gentle art of "skip" in book reviewing and makes you acquire the power of estimating the value of books; it gives the privilege of work with readers who believe in the unseen; and, finally, it affords an opportunity to see results in your own lifetime.

During those three months I had a copy of a little pamphlet on the "Seven Joys of Reading," that is, just the seven joys of children's work. (I think, just the same, that there are seventy times seven joys in the work of a children's librarian.) The first joy is shock; when you first start in, the noise is appalling, the cumulative noise that seems to get the best of you; other shocks come from the grimy hands, the battered books, so many "smarty" boys, so many tough boys, so many flirtatious girls. It is difficult among all these shocks to see the amenities of your work. But, as you begin to tackle your problem, as you settle down to the routine, you find the amenity in the fact that you have the privilege of working with young and strong and vehement patrons. You learn that you

must acquire speed to get your work done; you must also acquire courtesy. After many mistakes you find you are gaining in tact. At first it is not an easy thing to go up to a tough or "smarty" boy, or a flirtatious girl, and establish the right sort of relations. When you reach the stage where you can speak to the tough boy and get a responsive smile back, you have begun to arrive. You must find what will awaken interest, what will make them want to stay in the children's room. Never to have to send a boy or girl out of the room is a great achievement. After a little while you discover that, as your own voice softens in all that noise, the noise grows less and the children's voices in turn become soft. If you have to go in front of a child, say "Pardon me," and you will soon find the toughest boy also saying "Pardon me."

In working with the young and strong you have the comforting realization that your patrons are not rheumatic or neurotic. Boys come in from playing rough games; it is difficult for them to have clean hands. As time goes on, and your contact with this vehement young life grows closer, you have the joy of feeling that it contributes to your life; you find yourself watching the scores and feeling a keen desire to know the outcome of a certain ball game.

Again, you acquire a great understanding of children. It comes to you very slowly. At first it is all shocks and surprises. But because your life is spent with children, you presently know that normal children are steady and healthy and strong. And when you find that one boy is a little more noisy, more careless, rougher towards others than the rest, you realize that you have in him the problem of the feeble-minded boy. And you have the blind, and even children with contagious diseases. You wonder why there are so many books missing. You marvel at the avidity with which the children like to read.

The amenity beneath all this is that it gradually leads to a deeper sympathy.

It also leads to a mental alertness. You have got to keep up the pace. It leads to a better informed mind, to open-mindedness, to finding out where most of your patrons come from. If you are suddenly losing a great many books, there is something back of it all. You go to the Judge of the Juvenile Court and learn in what districts there is the greatest juvenile delinquency. You find out what the community really is, and what you are going to do about it. Through this information you gain a wider contact with the public and the community. Suddenly your library becomes a clearing house. You find yourself interested in the problem of the feeble-minded boy and the proper agency for looking after him. If you find a boy playing truant often, you try to steer him into a school garden. And you see good in Boy Scouts, in Girl Scouts; you see the value of playgrounds. You are interested in the survey, whereby you learn that the children who spend their recreational hours in libraries tell about going home and going to bed early. You find out how many books children read and where they get them; what they like and what they don't like. Do they read magazines? Do many children own books? Do they take out their books from libraries? If they don't, why not?

Here comes in your good salesmanship. You study public speaking. You consult all the books you can on selling goods. You study methods on how to get your books across to the public, and try making exhibits that will draw people to the library, especially exhibits of work with children. You have a boat exhibit, a wireless exhibit, an exhibition of Boy Scout material, a doll exhibit. You keep very closely in touch with the problem projects of the schools. In Providence we had a very successful circus-parade problem project that was widely advertised by the newspapers. That is another thing, use your newspapers for publicity. Try to encourage visits of classes to the library. The best publicity you can get

is the class brought during school hours under the supervision of a teacher. At vacation time never fail to make a point of contact with children at the *beginning* of vacation. They begin to look up answers to your questions, and are thus led to an interest in books of good values.

In story-telling, the fact that you have a power to lead children to make their own pictures is wonderful. If they want to read the book afterward you have achieved results. It is a chance to light a fire in a dark room; so many children are living under hard and harsh conditions.

Next comes the cumulative interest in book news and publishers. You gradually acquire a sense of book values. You find yourself, as you first work with children, watching the publications of other libraries, taking the opinion of someone whose judgment you respect in choosing your books. As the new books come out you begin to pass judgment yourself; as you read, you learn the gentle art of "skip"; you want to offer nothing but the best; you watch eagerly for critical reviews. Then you begin to pass judgment on illustrations. As time goes on you come to be a real critic of children's books. You judge the publishers and wish that you might have an opportunity of influencing their work.

You have to work hard if you are to be a children's librarian. But, as someone has said, "Routine is a conduit that brings down refreshing waters from high moments to irrigate the arid days." And you have the privilege of working with patrons that believe in the unseen. One of the greatest amenities in your work is that you live to see the results. You can't do this in work with adults.

The need to-day, the greatest need of all, is the need of experienced workers. A young woman who would be a complete children's librarian ought not only to take a summer course in children's work, but to detach herself from the library, if only for the period of a year, and study hard the spirit of courtesy; study thoroughness; study

children's literature; study how to tell stories; acquire executive ability and initiative and resourcefulness. The work which has been going on in the last twenty-two or twenty-three years has had points of contact with many agencies, with schools, with organizations working for the welfare of children. No young worker to-day can have as much freedom, can get results by experimenting as we all did. We made many mistakes, but now we know what those mistakes are.

The way of the children's librarian is now a well-marked path, but the opportunities are as rich as ever. There is an urgent call for trained workers. Go to it! There is need of you.

AN EXHIBITION OF MUSIC.

For the midwinter meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club, held in the Library on February 3, an exhibition of some of the musical treasures of our collection was arranged in the Exhibition Room of the Special Libraries Department.

There was the first known German work on music, printed in 1488; the first printed work on musical instruments, with quaint colored illustrations, printed in Basle in 1511; an English treatise by Butler (London, 1636), perhaps the first example of phonetic spelling, requiring for its printing special type, designed by the author; and first editions of the early theorists and historians, all in fine, clean, perfect copies.

Several beautiful illuminated manuscripts on vellum were displayed, one a large antiphonary almost too heavy for one person to carry, another a tiny little book of canticles done in some Russian monastery, with the music in the old neumatic notation, used before the staff was introduced. One of the illuminated manuscripts was perhaps a sort of prompt-book for some Archbishop of Rotterdam, who may have been near-sighted so that he could not read from the large book held up in front of him, and had made for him this little

volume with just the beginnings of the different portions of the service.

Among the American rarities were Hopkinson's "Seven Songs," dedicated to George Washington, and Brown's "Three rondos for the harpsichord"; of each of these there are only two known copies in existence. Of sacred music there was Billings's "New England Psalm Singer," with a frontispiece engraved by Paul Revere, and Lyon's "Urania," one of the most significant landmarks in the history of church music in the American Colonies. The exhibition also contained rare editions of "The Star Spangled Banner," "Adams and Liberty," and the "Anacreontic Song," the English tune to which these patriotic songs were set.

Among autograph manuscripts were a sketch for MacDowell's "Indian Suite," Gilbert's "Negro Rhapsody," and a composition by Prince Albert, consort of Queen Victoria of England.

Examples of some of the most recent tendencies in modern writing were a piece for piano by Satie, with no indications either of key or tempo, and no division into measures, and the orchestral score of "Prometheus," by Skriabin, with notation for the light key board, which flashed colored lights on a screen as the music was played.

The exhibition was on view less than a week, but we hope to replace it at some future date when it can be seen for a longer period. B. D.

MT. BOWDOIN BRANCH.

Now that the Mt. Bowdoin Reading Room has been made a branch library, it may be interesting to review a little of its history and the steps which led up to the final regrading.

This Reading Room has been serving the public in its present quarters since 1886. It is located in a thickly settled section of Dorchester, the population of which is largely Jewish.

The book collection numbers about 7,000 volumes, and the circulation is large, reaching 77,872 volumes in 1920-1921, and 86,469 volumes in 1921-1922; on an average, each book in the col-

lection went out last year more than once a month. There are several large schools in the district, four churches, and other community centres, and the library has been of service to them all.

If you have ever visited Mt. Bowdoin between the hours of 4 and 6 p.m. on a week day, I am sure that you will agree that the schools especially were well represented there. Between those hours the room is crowded with children. They swarm about the shelves, sit reading at the tables, or, if they have been fortunate enough to find the desired book, they join one of the long lines, which to our unimaginative eyes reach only to the charging desk, but for them lead to the door which opens the way into fairyland or the wilds of Africa.

Later in the evening come the pupils from the High School, bringing their reference questions, and the older men and women, many of whom need special help and direction in their reading.

All this growing work has left very little time for the more mechanical side of library routine. To meet this difficulty, and also to give the adult readers and those who attend the afternoon sessions of the High School an opportunity to come to the Library in the less hurried hours of the morning, it was decided to open the Reading Room at 9 a.m., as an experiment for two months, beginning January 24, 1921. Later this time was extended to June 1st.

During this experimental period careful records were kept of the attendance and circulation in the morning. These records showed that the new schedule of hours was a success, and, in addition, many teachers and others expressed their appreciation of the larger service that was being rendered by the new arrangement. The final result was the regrading of the Reading Room as a Branch, open from 9 a.m. to 9 p.m. every week day, beginning February 1, 1922.

We offer our congratulations to Miss Wetherald, the librarian, and the other members of the staff at Mt. Bow-

doin, to whose loyalty and faithfulness the success of the work is due, and with them we look forward to a larger and broader future for the Branch.

B. L. D.

PINS CRASH!

One of the merriest bowling parties of the season took place on the evening of February 27, when twenty-five members of the Library staff held a tournament at the South Boston Yacht Club House. The interest was evident throughout the evening; all the alleys were in constant use, and the frequent applause indicated a gratifying number of strikes and spares. (Only a few players had to be reminded not to try for the same pin twice.) There is excellent bowling material in the staff, as appears from the following scores:

Bowler	1st	2d	3d	Total
Miss Kenney . . .	59	68	70	197
Miss Manning . . .	66	63	85	214
Miss Sullivan . . .	69	87	63	219
Aker	71	84	75	230
Conroy	67	63	78	208
Crowley	70	82	93	245
Earley	81	78	79	238
Fleischner	68	94	78	240
Gallagher	78	77	80	235
Hofman	86	85	92	263
McCarthy, W. . . .	83	89	82	254
Mulloney	89	87	93	269
O'Brien	70	78	85	233
Schromm, H. C. . .	93	95	117	305
Swan	76	77	82	235
Webster	72	78	98	248

The Dutch supper was delicious and bountiful. This party renews the custom begun in 1920, when a large number of the staff met to bowl every week during the winter.

The success of the party was due to the initiative and good management of the committee, Miss May Burke, of the Issue Department, and Mr. John J. O'Brien of the Bindery. The committee wish to know if others in the Library would care to attend a similar party soon, at the same expense, one dollar. It is proposed to have the supper *before*

bowling, if the company so decide. Give your names and suggestions to the Committee.

"HOW I BECAME A LIBRARIAN."

In the second "Informal Talk," given at the Library on Thursday, January 12, Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell, of the Social Service Library, gave an account of the steps by which she had become a librarian. She said that in her childhood libraries were not open to those under twelve years of age; their only resource, aside from gifts, was the Sunday School libraries. As a consequence, books were very precious and were accumulated as children now collect birds' nests and other treasures.

After graduation from college, Mrs. Hartzell applied for a position in the Boston Public Library, but at the same time had a chance to go abroad, and this she decided to do. She presently married and went to California, where she settled in a small town outside of Pasadena. This community was in a demoralized state because of the influence of three wineries. Mrs. Hartzell described graphically the regeneration of this town, starting with the establishment, largely through the efforts of herself and her husband, of a small county branch library.

The death of Mr. Hartzell brought to her the necessity of deciding upon a profession, and she turned naturally to one which was bound up with one of her chief interests in life—books. The problem was, how to get the best training in a short time; this was solved by attending the one-year graduates' course at Simmons College. Mrs. Hartzell described most interestingly the courses in Library Science given there. She urged the wisdom of taking a library course, when possible; its great value lies in giving a short cut to the accumulated experience of others. The pupil soon learns that there is more than one good way of doing things; he becomes adaptable. If one cannot take a regular course, evening and extension courses are available, from which a great deal may be gained.

H. S.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. I, No. 6.

Mar. 15, 1922

MORE THAN ONE WAY.

Not long ago, two members of the Library staff were discussing the shortest way from the Boston City Club to the Post Office. One of them, confident in his acquaintance with Boston streets, said, "That's easy: go out to Beacon Street, down Beacon and School, and through Spring Lane, and there you are!"

The other responded, "Yes, but suppose it was raining, and you had no umbrella; you'd get pretty wet. I know a cut that's dry all the way, except crossing streets. Go through the Court House, cross Pemberton Square and go through the Carney Building; then through the Kimball Building to Court Square, and through Young's Hotel and Thompson's Spa; cross Washington Street, go through the Globe Building to Devonshire Street, and then by taking a right angle through the Shawmut Bank, you come out on Water Street, opposite the Post Office without getting wet."

There is, as Mrs. Hartzell said to the staff not long ago, "more than one good way of doing things." Those of us who have been in the Library a long time are sometimes too apt to stand upon tradition, and to feel that, because the Boston Public Library is nearly seventy years old, its methods are authoritative, and no one should question them. Recent graduates of library schools, or those who have been trained in the ways of one of the younger libraries, where the machinery is of the latest pattern, are in danger, on the

other hand, of being unduly critical of the old ways of an old institution.

One group says, "It has always worked; why change it?" The other says, "Yes, but 'suppose it rains, and you have no umbrella?' New conditions demand new machinery. You ought at least to recognize that there are better ways of doing things, if only you could adopt them."

Two ways are better than one; an open mind is better than either. It is easy to get so absorbed in the methods which one is using that one becomes unconscious that there are alternatives which may be preferable. It is only by contact with other librarians and knowledge of their work and their problems that we can hope to get perspective on our own job and its methods. Library meetings, library schools, "Informal Talks," are all opportunities of contact, which will help to broaden our outlook and open our minds to what is really the best way yet found — no matter where — for doing the work we have to do.

We are all helping to "build the Library." Let us seek the best materials wherever they may be produced; let us not cling over-jealously to the old, even if it is the easiest for us to use.

The article in this issue of *LIBRARY LIFE* on the music exhibition held in February, with the report of Miss Duncan's paper before the Massachusetts Library Club, published a month ago, together give an excellent concise idea of the character and the wealth of the Library's musical resources.

Miss Mary A. Tenney, of the Catalogue Department, has returned to her desk after an absence of about two weeks, as the result of a fall on the ice, in which her right wrist was broken. Her arm is still in a sling, but *LIBRARY LIFE* joins in her hope that she may soon have the full use of her hand again.

The sympathy of the Library staff is extended to Miss Annie M. Twomey,

of the Issue Department, on account of the sudden death, on March 9th, of her father, Mr. Patrick Twomey, at the age of 55 years.

The Secretary of the Benefit Association reports that Mr. John F. Locke, of the Shelf Department, has been ill since February 21, with an affection of the heart; that Miss Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, after a brief return to her duties is again absent from the Library; that Miss Isabel E. Wetherald, Librarian of the Mt. Bowdoin Branch, has been obliged by a nervous breakdown to take an extended leave of absence; and that Miss Fanny Goldstein, Librarian of the Tyler Street Reading Room, is in New Hampshire, recuperating after a serious operation.

Miss Beatrice M. Flanagan, librarian of the Neponset Reading Room, has been appointed acting librarian at the Mt. Bowdoin Branch, during the illness of Miss Wetherald.

LIBRARY LIFE publishes in this issue abstracts of two more of the Informal Talks to Junior Assistants, which are being given in the Library on Thursday mornings. If anyone has thus far failed to take these Talks seriously, it is not too late to begin; those who attend the Talks get much more than those who simply read the printed abstracts, both because the printed accounts are greatly condensed, and because the personality of the speaker in almost every case has added materially to the effectiveness of the Talk. The leading librarians of Massachusetts are giving us of their best, and we thank them.

The attendance thus far has been good, but a larger number might come with profit to themselves. It is especially interesting to note that many assistants from other public libraries — 37 on one occasion — have been glad to take advantage of the opportunity to hear these talks. On an average, about 25 members of the staff of the Boston

Public Library have been present at each talk, although in many cases it has been impossible for individuals to attend every lecture, on account of the shortage of help in some of the branch libraries. Ten of the junior members of the staff submitted papers based on the first group of three talks; the prize, a copy of Ferris Greenslet's "Quest of the Holy Grail," with reproductions of the Abbey paintings, was won by Frank R. Harris, of the Fine Arts Department. Honorable mention was given to the paper written by Miss Mary E. Wall, of the South Boston Branch.

Forty-six members of the Library staff are also enrolled in Professor Rogers's Friday morning class in the History of English Literature.

LOREN N. DOWNS, JR.

Loren N. Downs, Jr., an employee of the Library, in the evening and Sunday force, from 1905 to 1912, died very suddenly on Tuesday, February 28, at his home, 88 Grove St., Watertown. During his term of service in the Library, he was always faithful, cheerful and anxious to help in every way he could; he will be greatly missed by all who knew him.

Mr. Downs graduated from the Massachusetts Institute of Technology in 1910, and served as an instructor in that institution the following year. He was at one time dean of the School of Commerce and Finance at Northeastern College, Providence, R. I., and has recently been connected with the New England Confectionery Co. He is survived by his widow, Dorothy Busby Downs; his father, Loren N. Downs; and a son, Loren, 3d.

The funeral services were held at Trinity Church on Friday, March 3, Rev. C. Russell Moody officiating, as Dr. Mann was ill at the time. Several hymns were sung by some of the former choir associates of Mr. Downs; the floral tributes were very beautiful. The body was taken to Woodlawn Cemetery.

F. C. B.

THE DICKENS EXHIBITION.

It is said that at no time since the death of Charles Dickens has there been so much interest in his life and books as at the present time. During the current season several large and notable collections of his works have come to this country to be added to private libraries or to be dispersed at auction, at prices which are in some cases greater than any on record.

The Library did its part in arousing and fostering this interest by holding an exhibition which opened on Feb. 6, and was scheduled for two weeks, but so great was the attention aroused that it was held over for an extra week or two. Seldom has an exhibition here created more interest or secured greater publicity. At least two of the papers gave it very extended notice, with illustrations of some of the notable features.

Everyone who saw the collection must feel indebted to its owner, Mr. A. A. Hopkins, editor of the *Scientific American*, of New York, not only for the loan of the books and pictures, but for the admirable arrangement and the care with which the labels and notices were prepared. To the casual visitor to the gallery the pictures, maps and playbills made an immediate appeal. Lovers of Dickens found their interest chiefly in the personal relics, the letters and unknown magazine articles and pamphlets. The lover of first and rare editions found a wealth of material which has seldom, if ever, been equaled in Boston.

It is impossible to name all the items of interest, but three or four seem to demand more than passing notice.

Perhaps the most notable single book in the collection was the presentation copy of "Sketches by Boz," given by the author to Richard Bentley. Many other rarities there were, but that seemed the one most to be coveted.

The collection was very strong in its items of books in the original paper covers as issued in parts, first and variant editions and other rarities. It

would be interesting to know how many Dickens lovers had ever even heard of some of the magazines and pamphlet titles.

Mr. Matz, of London, the editor of *The Dickensian* from the start, sent a valuable collection of autograph letters and other material, including the unique trial volume of the magazine, called for the moment "Our Mutual Friend." The "Edwin Drood" literature was full and entertaining; no less so were the many books about Dickens and the material about his biographer, Forster. To many it came as a genuine surprise that Dickens had taken the world into his confidence in regard to his marital difficulties, a question which his biographers have usually left alone or smoothed over. Dickens made this statement public in the issue of *Household Words* for June 12, 1858.

We have left until the last any mention of the purely personal relics, the bowler hat and the collar embroidered with the author's initials, which caused so much comment. Fortunately both of the objects were well authenticated, and no doubt added greatly to the popular interest of the collection.

To Mr. Hopkins, to Mr. Matz and to those who prepared the excellent guide cards we of the Library are all deeply indebted.

H. W. M.

CURRENT CITY DIRECTORIES.

Recent directories of the following cities and towns will be found in the Information Office; if no state is named, understand Massachusetts. This list should be used in connection with that of telephone directories, published in *LIBRARY LIFE* for January 15.

Albany, N. Y.
Attleboro.
Auburn, N. Y.
Baltimore, Md.
Bangor, Me.
Bath, Me.
Beverly.
Boston.
Brockton.
Brookline.
Buffalo, N. Y.
Cambridge.

Chicago, Ill.
Cincinnati, Ohio.
Cleveland, Ohio.
Concord.
Concord, N. H.
Cranston, R. I.
Denver, Colo.
Des Moines, Iowa.
Detroit, Mich.
Dover, N. H.
Exeter, N. H.
Fall River.

Gloucester.	Omaha, Neb.
Greenfield.	Ottawa, Canada.
Hamilton.	Oxford County (Central), Me.
Hartford, Conn.	Paris, France.
Haverhill.	Pawtucket, R. I.
Indianapolis, Ind.	Philadelphia, Pa.
Kansas City, Mo.	Pittsburgh, Pa.
Lawrence.	Plymouth.
London, England.	Portland, Me.
Los Angeles, Cal.	Portland, Ore.
Lowell.	Providence, R. I.
Lynn.	Quebec, Canada.
Malden.	Quincy.
Manchester, N. H.	Rochester, N. Y.
Mansfield and Foxboro.	St. Louis, Mo.
Marblehead.	St. Paul, Minn.
Marlboro.	Salem.
Medford.	San Francisco, Cal.
Milford and Hopedale.	Seattle, Wash.
Milton.	Somerville.
Milwaukee, Wis.	Springfield.
Minneapolis, Minn.	Stoughton.
Montreal, Canada.	Syracuse, N. Y.
New Bedford.	Taunton.
New Orleans, La.	Toronto, Canada.
New York, N. Y.	Troy, N. Y.
Newburyport.	Waltham and Watertown.
Newport, R. I.	Washington, D. C.
Newton.	Weymouth.
North Shore.	Westerly, R. I.
Oakland, Berkeley, Alameda, Cal.	Woonsocket, R. I.
	Worcester.

REVIEWS.

THE CATALOG.

"The Catalog," a pamphlet of 23 pages, by Harriet Emma Howe, Assistant Professor of Library Science in Simmons College, is the most recent chapter to appear in the "preprint" of the A. L. A. Manual of Library Economy. The price is 10 cents.

In this manual, Miss Howe treats the catalogue from every angle of practical use, by readers, by libraries large and small, special or public, and by departments of a large library. Cataloguers will find a welcome encouragement, solutions to many problems, and many items of information, such as the names of libraries contributing cards to the Union Catalog at the Library of Congress, and the names of publishers who issue cards available for library use.

Every cataloguer should own the book, and every person in library work should at least know it by title and

read the page on "The ideal cataloger." There is a selected bibliography.

L. E. T.

HARVARD LIBRARY NOTES.

Harvard Library Notes, the occasional periodical issued by the Harvard University Library, reached its sixth number in November, 1921. This number is devoted almost entirely to the Florentine books, illustrated with woodcuts, recently acquired by the Library. These include the Savonarola editions of the fifteenth and sixteenth centuries, collected by the late Henry R. Newman, and the *Rappresentazioni sacre* (religious plays), of the sixteenth century, collected by the late Charles Fairfax Murray. The Savonarola collection is nearly complete. Both collections, with other contemporary Italian books from libraries of New England and New York, were exhibited in the Fogg Art Museum from November 8 to December 8.

The illustrations, some of which are reproduced in the *Notes*, are examples of Florentine woodcutting at its best; they are treated descriptively and technically in an article by Laura H. Dudley. George B. Weston contributes an account of the *Rappresentazioni*. "Paradise in the fifteenth century," by George Norbert Kates, is a delightful account of Paradise, as vividly conceived in the thought and art of the period; among the most detailed descriptions is one given by Savonarola in his *Compendio di Revelatione* (Florence, 1495), of which the Harvard Library has several early editions. The articles are illustrated by reproductions of the woodcuts, showing a border, Savonarola in his study, in his pulpit, and at the gate of Heaven; St. George and the dragon; and the story of St. Ursula. The last is from the original wood block cut in 1554, which recently came into the possession of the Fogg Museum.

This number contains also an account of the Library of the Museum, by Clara P. Briggs, and many notes of interest on Harvard Library matters.

L. E. T.

With the Juniors

Edited by Francis P. Znotas

ATTENTION, BRANCHES!

In the Central Library the boys and girls of the regular day force, and juniors working evenings and Sundays, are all represented by someone on this page. What about the Branches and Reading Rooms? We all know that juniors are employed in almost every Branch and Station. Since it would be unreasonable to expect one, or even two, persons to take care of thirty buildings, it probably is not advisable to have chosen representatives. However, that is no reason why juniors working in the Branches and Reading Rooms shouldn't contribute to this page. If something extraordinary or interesting happens where you work — something, of course, that may be of interest to juniors, — write an account of it and send it to Francis P. Znotas in the care of Children's Room. Get busy, Branches!

"SWIMMIN' POOLS" AT THE NORTH END BRANCH.

On Tuesday, March 7, "the entire cast" of "Swimmin' Pools," the romance given before the Staff Club, gave a second performance at the North End Branch. Rather humorous were some of the experiences our friends had during the evening.

To begin with, the cloudy skies, which had been threatening all day, belched forth rain and drenched our travelers en route.

Contrary to the general rule, the service rendered by "The Olde Boston Elevated" was equal to that of the modern express, leaving our actors(?) at Scollay Square in a rather reasonable time. Following directions, the boys started down Hanover Street. As usual on such occasions, they passed right by their objective, North Bennet St. In search of information, they approached one of the natives.

"North Bennet Street, sure, first street, second."

Getting wetter and wetter all the while, and with less knowledge than they had before, the party groped hither and thither and finally arrived at their destination.

Much more could be added about wiring, ice cream, dancing, etc., than space permits, so I will pass directly on to the journey homewards. If the boys were soaked upon arriving, they were drowned on departure. The drizzle had risen to a deluge. One umbrella among five actors was not adequate, so the remaining four could do naught but go Swimmin' in the Pools.

MEETING NOTES.

There should be no more electric lamps lighted down the central aisles of the stacks than are necessary for work. None should be left lighted in the alcoves.

A word in explanation of fines seems worth while. A two-cent fine is charged for every day a book is overdue. An additional cent must be paid for a mail notice, which is sent when a book is five days overdue. After a book has been over-detained more than two weeks, twenty-five cents more is added to the regular fine. This is for a messenger. When a book is more than a month overdue, it is considered lost; then the price of the book must be paid.

No fines are to be taken in after nine p. m.

Never leave a finable card inside a book on the truck behind the return window. The book should be checked off, and the card placed in the compartment provided for the purpose.

On behalf of the cast of "Swimmin' Pools," I should like to thank Miss Curley, of the North End Branch, for the courtesy shown us on the evening of March seventh. We are very much pleased that we could render a little help in the work which she is doing for her community.

F. R. H.

Our Neighbor Libraries

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The February meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston was held on the 27th in the Boston University School of Law.

The guest and speaker of the evening was Mr. John E. Hannigan, lecturer in the School of Law and trustee of the Social Law Library. He gave a most interesting account of his visits to the reading room of the British Museum, where certain red tape usually prescribed in America was omitted, and the real prerequisite to admission, there as here, was found to be the desire to use the library. He was given every facility in his research, which related to the lives of the comedians John Heminge and Henry Condell, the fellow-actors to whom Shakespeare bequeathed "xxvj's. viii^d a peece to buy them ringes," and who published the first folio of Shakespeare's plays in 1623.

Referring then to education for the public service, the speaker recalled the early reading of Lincoln, describing the books which formed his mind as a striking example of the special library: these were the Bible, Æsop's Fables, Pilgrim's Progress, Robinson Crusoe, a dictionary, a history of the United States, Weems's life of Washington, Shakespeare, and a copy of the Statutes of Indiana, which included the Declaration of Independence, the Constitution of the United States, and the Ordinance of 1787, which prohibited slavery in Indiana and in all the country between the Ohio and the Mississippi. There are many candidates for office, said the speaker, and many books for training in the public service, but the assembling and the adequate administration of such books is an ideal that is yet to be realized in our special libraries.

Mr. Hannigan was preceded by Mr. George Winthrop Lee, who read a paper on "Getting the most out of As-

sociations"; a few points seem to be of particular value. Mr. Lee said in part, "Suppose each one who presented a paper at a convention were induced to bring out in standard form the different practices that he or she described; the handbook compiled from their contributions would be valuable indeed. Thus far we have done nothing beyond publishing suggestive papers in full or in abstract; reading them in consecutive order, one is made fairly dizzy by choppiness in the series.

"If papers were submitted in advance, they could be presented in outline and then discussed at the sessions: but this method should not prevent the reading of inspired papers such as fairly defy discussion and which it would seem almost a sacrilege to discuss. Let there be papers to exhort as well as papers to transact, for the audience has rights as well as duties, and some of us come to receive and need to receive, and others come to give and need to give.

"As librarians we are keepers of the house of knowledge, and are in a position to specialize in this direction or in that. As agents of the world of commerce may we command its respect, which would be revealed in higher salaries; as agents of the world of science may we command its respect, which would be revealed in awards of honor."

Mr. George Winthrop Lee has made an analysis of the subjects of the Free Public Lectures given in the Library Lecture Hall the present season. He finds that six are devoted to Art, five to topics connected with Boston, five to the Drama, four to Biographical subjects, eleven to History and Archaeology, eight to Music, six to Natural History, six to Literature, and ten to Scenery and Travel. These figures total sixty-one; as there are to be only fifty-one lectures, it will be seen that ten of the lectures have been entered under more than one head.

Library Organizations

STAFF CLUB.

The third dramatic production of the Staff Club, a one-act play, "Swimmin' Pools," by Belford Forest, was given February 28, by junior members of the staff. By skilful application of make-up, the five young men of the cast were transformed into a group of two business men and three tramps, who came, at the beckoning of circumstance, to a dumping ground. A gasp of delight from the audience was witness to the effectiveness of the scene, which was arranged with the assistance of Mr. Niederauer. A delightful camp fire of electric lights masked by sticks of wood cast eerie light and shade over dim piles of rubbish in the background and several human derelicts in the foreground. The ensuing action was tense and natural. The amazing vest and cockney dialect of Mr. Buckley; the gruff cynicism of Mr. Harris, the Nut; the rhapsody of the Kid, Mr. Znotas, over Mary, the girl with the remarkable "eyes like swimmin' pools"; the surly efficiency of the Sheriff, Mr. Manning; the unstagey laughter of the Man, Mr. Laham, whose casual advent set everything right in the end — all these things went to make up a memorable performance.

The orchestra, Miss Hazlewood, piano; Mr. Buckley, first violin; and Miss Daly, second violin, played delightful music before the play. There were bountiful refreshments afterwards, through the skilful co-operation of the Hospitality Committee, Miss Deery, Miss Mary V. Doyle, and Mr. Johnson. The evening ended with dancing, with Miss Curley at the piano. The Staff Club owes a debt of gratitude to Miss Curley, who is always such a patient and charming accompanist.

M. E. P.

The next meeting of the Staff Club will be held in the Staff Lecture Room of the Central Library on Wednesday,

March 29, at 8 p. m. Dr. Sarah Ellen Palmer will give a talk on the subject, "The Doughboy in the Rhineland." There will also be a program of music, and refreshments as usual.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The annual meeting of the Employees' Benefit Association, with election of officers, will be held in the Library Lecture Hall on Tuesday, April 4, at 11 a. m. The official list of candidates for office, revised to March 14, is as follows:

PRESIDENT.

William C. Maiers, Ordering Dept.

VICE-PRESIDENT.

Frank H. Chase, Reference Dept.

SECRETARY.

George W. Gallagher, Bindery.

FINANCIAL SECRETARY.

William F. O'Hara, Ordering Dept.

TREASURER.

Frank C. Blaisdell, Issue Dept.

DIRECTOR FOR 4 YEARS (vote for one).

Miss Della J. Deery, Executive Dept.
Mr. Patrick A. Kennedy, Engineer Dept.

AUDITING COMMITTEE (vote for three).

Miss Bessie L. Doherty, Branch Dept.
Francis J. Hannigan, Periodical Dept.
Morris J. Rosenberg, Statistical Dept.
Lucien E. Taylor, Catalogue Dept.

RELIEF COMMITTEE (vote for ten).

Miss Lillian A. Bickford, East Boston Branch.

Miss Margaret A. Calnan, South Boston Branch.

George C. Johnson, Fine Arts Dept.
Harry W. Mathews, Reference Dept.
James P. Mooers, Bindery.

Miss Maud M. Morse, Branch Dept.
Miss Harriet V. Mulloy, Ordering Dept.

James Reay, Printing Dept.

Miss Margaret V. Rooney, Brighton Branch.

Abraham Snyder, Catalogue Dept.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume I, No. 7

April 15, 1922

CONTENTS.

THE ETHICS OF A LIBRARY ASSISTANT .	73	OUR NEIGHBOR LIBRARIES	82
MR. JOHN F. LOCKE	75	LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS	83
DRAMATICS	76	"The Doughboy in the Rhineland" .	83
EDITORIALS	78	Pension Committee	84
NEWS ITEMS	78	NOTES	84
MRS. SPAULDING	79		
ODD VOLUMES	80		
CATALOGUE NOTES	80		
WITH THE JUNIORS	81		

SUPPLEMENT.

NEWS NOTES ON GOVERNMENT PUBLI- CATIONS, No. 24	*25 - *28
--	-----------

THE ETHICS OF A LIBRARY ASSISTANT.

As the sixth in the series of Informal Talks, Mr. Truman R. Temple, librarian of the Thomas Crane Free Library, Quincy, gave a stimulating address on the topic "Library Ethics," on the morning of February 9. Mr. Temple said:

It sounds like a very boring topic, this question of ethics, very obscure and recondite, but we will try to simplify it. At college, in the opening lecture, when our professor was trying to draw a distinction between ethics and natural science, he said that ethics treats of things as they ought to be, while natural science treats of things as they are. I am going to talk of things as they ought to be in the library, but also of things as I actually know them to be.

First of all, let us look into the rights of library assistants. I hold it an inalienable right of the assistant to have proper pay. The librarian is worthy of his hire. He is entitled to be considered by the head of the library as an individual, so that his possibilities may be comprehended, and he may ultimately be of the most use to the library and to society. He has a right

to promotion as he becomes fitted for it and as openings arise, and he has that right without the necessity of emphasizing it. You will note that advancement must be made when possible, when opportunity offers. I want you to bear in mind also that librarians can't always convince councils and mayors that a library is not simply a comfortable berth for nervous wrecks and lackadaisical incompetents.

Any system of ethics will tell you that there is no right without concomitant duties. You will remember that the chief character in "If Winter Comes" tells his wife, "If you are going to have a privilege, you have got to earn it." Let us examine what the duties of a library assistant are. First of all, his time belongs for a certain specified period to the library; it is paid for. It is accepted as belonging to the library, and this does not mean merely time spent within the walls, but time spent on duty. Bursting through the door at the last stroke of nine does not fulfil these requirements. Spending the time taking off one's hat and coat or on the solemn ceremonial of the make-up does not fulfil that duty.

Another encroachment on library time is unnecessary talk. I feel that jabbering is a universal danger and

menace to efficient service; it also helps in a large measure to keep alive in the mind of the public the notion that librarians do not take their work seriously. The talker implies a listener, and some especially good conversationalists have been known to draw as many as three or four around them. Their devastation is appalling. Noise is just as contagious as measles. You have seen a roomful of industrious people, and suddenly there comes in some one who flies about with sage remarks about the gowns at the dance the night before and the divine qualities of Billy's dancing. The normal human mind can't resist that kind of appeal, and a greater or less degree of pandemonium reigns. That sort of an assistant is dear at any price. No library can afford to hire her.

I believe that many librarians consider the tendency to talk a very close index of character, a very sure barometer of the degree of interest one has in his work. That is the final test of an assistant, the degree of interest—enthusiasm—he has for his work. I never see an enthusiastic library worker spending any considerable amount of time in talking.

I constantly tell my staff that I don't want my assistants to feel that they are in jail. There is a perfectly proper place for the bright word and the clever story; the point is to know when to stop. The cheerful word clears the air, brightens the day; but it is not the staple of our work. Draw the line, and don't abuse privileges. A library ought to be a happy place. There are just two things which please me most: to see a girl at the desk who is glad to help anyone at any time; to hear a girl humming as she comes into the stacks. It means she is happy, and I want to encourage that atmosphere.

The right of the library to your time implies another thing, the right to your time with the guarantee back of it that you will so employ yourself outside the library that you are ready for hard work each morning. Good common sense dictates that you should take care of your health. There is an ethical

obligation not to use your time outside the library so that you constantly come to work in a state of fatigue and low spirits.

Then again comes the question of loyalty, and this is a very serious thing. I especially want to call your attention to the fact that you must bear in mind that you ought to be charitable toward a librarian. You don't know under what limitations he is laboring, and you don't know his problems. He is hampered at many points of which you have little realization. The librarian has a double duty; he faces both ways. He wants to consider your rights, but he has also to keep the rights of the library at heart, and the two sometimes conflict. He often has to refuse to do things for assistants that he would be glad to do because of a personal liking for them, but one has got to keep a judicial frame of mind. A person may have likeable traits, but not be worth as much to a library as some one else who lacks those traits. Bear that in mind—the double obligation of the librarian.

Every institution must have a competent head or guide of experience. Someone must see it as a whole. It must be directed by someone with lines out in every direction, which he brings to a common centre and directs to a common end. Maybe you don't see the library as a whole. Sometimes what you want, some move you feel is right, does not "cog in" with the other moves and with the purposes of the library. You must not forget the fact that you have laid the case before the librarian and that he has decided against you. Remember, in the first place, that the librarian may be right—he probably is; but if he is not, ethical considerations require that you accept his decision cheerfully, and that you do what you can to bring his plan through to a successful conclusion. Don't sulk; don't carry out certain instructions so as *not* to give them a fair trial. Your best endeavor is due to the librarian and the system. Before all things, shun as you would shun the plague the carrying of criticism of the librarian or the library outside the walls. Com-

mon sense requires this, decency demands it. And bear in mind that "a dog that will fetch a bone will carry one." You can't spoil your chances anywhere more quickly than by indiscriminate criticism of the institution in which you are employed. That is just pure wisdom; it is good ethics, too.

You have a duty to the public. You have been told that until you don't want to hear it again, but don't forget that the larger the library, the more the attitude of the assistant determines the feeling of the public toward the institution. You stand between the library and those who use it. The spirit you manifest is the standard by which the institution is going to be judged. You often have to deal with unreasonables, sometimes you have to deal with absolute devils, and it is, I know, almost more than human power can endure at times. There is just one way to do it that I can see: you must have a vision of the value of library service. At times, without this, I am afraid you are going to be provoked into responses that will be disastrous to all of you.

Another point: the librarian ought to read. It is a duty; it ought to be a pleasure. A library assistant needs to read wisely and thoughtfully, with a view to keeping abreast of current history and the trend of thought. Your own desire for promotion ought to prompt this, but it can be reinforced on ethical grounds.

It is not necessary for us to say what is the most important topic of discussion in this field of the ethics of a library assistant. If there is any most important point, I wonder if it is not our staff relations. Every library has that problem. The public feel the atmosphere the minute they step inside the door. In large measure this consists either of the friendly, kindly, generous attitude of members of the staff one toward the other, or the reverse. There are assistants who by their generosity of spirit, their willingness for service, their enthusiasm for their work, which carries right through into their attitude toward their fellow workers, seem to harmonize the machinery of the whole plant. They do it

all so unconsciously. The value of such an assistant is beyond the price of rubies; she can't be paid for what she does. Fortunately she has her reward. The other type seem to breathe out threatenings and slaughter. They seem to carry the job of everybody in the library on their shoulders; they spoil the day. This is the sort of an assistant who would not turn out a light, would not think of picking up a piece of paper which is cluttering the room, would not do anything which was not included in her stated duties. The one girl stands for the big open door of opportunity. She asks, how can I serve this library, help to bring it through to a successful goal. The other is dear at nothing a year.

I started out to talk to you on a very complicated loud-sounding topic—ethics—and I have just got around to common sense. In all these matters common sense dictates, ethics enforces. I want to see the desire to do right—to "play the game"—so dominating libraries that assistants will act from ethical motives rather than merely from common sense.

MR. JOHN F. LOCKE.

The resignation of Mr. John F. Locke, of the Shelf Department, from the service of the Library took effect on Monday, March 27. On the following Thursday a meeting of his associates in his honor was held in the Staff Lecture Room; Mr. Belden, presiding, spoke as follows:

"You find yourself, this sparkling spring day, surrounded by your Library friends who feel unwilling to let you pass from the life of the institution without tendering to you some expression of their personal regard.

"Some sentiment doubtless led you to sever your connection with the Library on Monday, March 27, 1922, your seventy-eighth birthday, after twenty-seven years, three months and seventeen days in public library service. In length of days it is a period in which you may well take just pride. To us of a younger generation it seems indeed a long stretch of time. You symbolize

to many of us the hero of our youth, a veteran of the Civil War. You are, I believe, the last participant in that war who held connection with the work and progress of this institution, which you have had the honor to serve and which you, in turn, have served with honor. You have lived to see the "youthful heroes" of the early 60's replaced by the youth of the World War, equal we know in heroic mould and equally to be revered, I trust, as the future shall unfold.

"It is a satisfaction to your colleagues to know that you retire on a pension under authority of an Act of Legislature of the Commonwealth. Your many companions in work cherish the memory of your presence and your companionship in the Library, and in order that their friendship may not fade with too great rapidity from your mind I have been asked—a privilege I appreciate—to give you this old-fashioned banjo clock. We trust that it may hang long years on the walls of your home and tick off for you and yours many happy hours filled with bright and pleasant memories of the days spent among your friends and well-wishers of the Public Library of the City of Boston."

Mr. Belden then read a poem, full of kindly regard and reminiscence, written by Mr. Locke's co-worker, Miss Gould. The presentation of the clock was accompanied by that of a beautiful bouquet of roses and carnations to Mrs. Locke. In his response, Mr. Locke spoke with much feeling; the key-note of his address was his interest in the welfare of the Library and his appreciation of the kindness and affection shown by his fellow-workers during what he called the "declining days" of his life. At the close, all those present, seventy-five in number, gathered round Mr. and Mrs. Locke, wishing them every possible good in the days to come.

DRAMATICS.

The second performance of "Swimmin' Pools," which was acted by the Junior boys before the Staff Club at

the Central Library on February 28 and repeated one week later by request at the North End Branch, closed the Library dramatic season of 1921-22. As it is not quite a year since the play-giving enterprise had its beginning with us, a few facts are offered about what has been done.

First, no one can review the dramatic situation of the past months without paying tribute to the splendid supporting spirit that has made itself felt from every one of the Library workers.

Thanks to this readiness to co-operate, three one-act plays have been given four performances, in the following order: an original sketch, April, 1921; a comedietta, November, 1921; a romance, February and March, 1922.

In the case of the first play, the management consisted of two persons, the writer and one assistant, and the sole item of expense, the cost of the crepe-paper festoons used for background, was met by a friend. There were neither lights nor curtain at this play. We had hectographed programs. Sixteen people took parts.

In November following, we went in a little deeper, spent \$2.68 on properties and playbooks, acquired footlights, and made use of a borrowed curtain. Our managing force was increased to four, with some extra assistants. Again money was contributed; one group defrayed the cost of the royalty, and an individual financed the program, much more pretentious than the first. Four persons acted. A volunteer orchestra of three pieces was brought together.

By February, suitable material for a curtain in the shape of burlap came our way. We enlarged the strip of footlights and invested in "make-up." The expenses of "Swimmin' Pools" amounted to three dollars and twenty cents. A friend again came to the rescue with financial aid. The parts were five in number. We typed our own programs.

The facts to be noted about these performances may be summarized as follows:

(1) *Actors.* In the three plays given, twenty-five Library employees, from various departments of the Central Library, including the Printing Depart-

ment, and one Branch, have been brought out. No person has appeared twice.

(2) *Staging.* An adequate curtain and means to hold it in place have been acquired. Footlights are available. Expert assistance from the Engineering Department has been contributed. The plays were not given on a stage, but at one end of the Staff Lecture Room.

(3) *Music.* A Library orchestra has been started.

(4) *Rehearsals.* Rehearsals were held between five and six o'clock in the afternoon, during lunch hours, or between nine and ten o'clock at night, on nearly every day for three or four weeks before the performance. In the case of the only really large cast, that of sixteen persons required for the first play, the actors were never all together until the night the play was given. Often at a five o'clock rehearsal, an actor who had finished his day's work and was to go on night duty at six o'clock, was forced to munch sandwiches between his scenes, or to ask if the director would let him go at a quarter before six so that he could get "a bite to eat."

(5) *Expense.* The cost of no play, exclusive of the accompanying hospitality, has exceeded five dollars, and even that has in large measure been met by private contributions.

(6) *Plays.* The quality of the plays has been light. They were selected with the aim not to place any strain on either the audience or the actors, all of whom had done a day's work before they came to the play. The intention has been solely to amuse, not to educate nor to uplift, except in so far as working together brings its benefits. Team work and not star parts have been sought for.

It will be observed from the foregoing that the work of producing Library plays has been planned with a minimum of time, expense, and effort in view. To provide something that would entertain a roomful of Library workers, that would give a little fun to those who were working on the piece, that would give them experience in mounting a play in respectable fashion, that

would not overtask them, nor interfere with the business of the Library, is all that we have tried to do.

Now, as to the future. The call for plays of better quality, plays of literary and educational value, for costuming, scenery, for long plays, for plays to be staged in the lecture hall, has sounded from various quarters. It cannot be disregarded. Granting the advantage of the things asked for, every one must know that they mean more time, more money, and more effort expended. While a light comedietta may ripple along of itself without great injury to the general effect of the scene if the leading character paraphrases his lines or even forgets them here and there (and if he is a busy Library worker on the Sunday-and-evening as well as the day force, who shall blame him?), words nicely chosen, written by a poet, cannot be dealt with so casually. The actor must have time; he must be rehearsed.

Should we have costumes, who is there among the women workers of the Library, however willing, who can undertake the business of cutting, sewing and fitting them? Or, if garments are obtained from a costumer, does the quality of our performance justify a considerable bill from such a firm? The same is true of scenery. It can be hired, if the performance as a whole warrants the expense and the funds available will permit.

Again, rehearsing a play must be done by a group of people working together day after day. The better the play, the greater the need of careful and prolonged rehearsal. How can this be managed?

Rehearsed in such time as we could call our own, with some of the cast absent and some of them barely getting their lines learned before the dress rehearsal, with limited facilities as to costumes and scenery, and the management going down on its knees to the mechanical department for help, our performances have necessarily been of light weight. The management does not dispute that. But, how to do more in the future or even to keep on, under present conditions? The question is open.

C. H.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. I, No. 7.

April 15, 1922

BOOKS.

In the remorse, much of it baseless, which haunted Mr. Forsyth in his unhappy last days, one of the chief elements was shame that he had not read more. Again and again he said, "I have made nothing of my life. I am not an educated man. I have been a librarian all my days, but I do not know books." The reproach was not deserved, for Mr. Forsyth had the instincts of a scholar, and had read far more widely than he admitted; but the charge is in a measure true of altogether too many of the library workers of to-day.

Up to a generation ago, every librarian could safely be assumed to be a scholar. In the old leisurely days, one whose profession kept him among books, or gave him access to them, could be counted on to value the opportunities granted him by fortune, and to make himself familiar with the treasures of thought and learning which were placed within his reach. The early librarians of the Boston Public Library, the early Trustees, were almost all men of distinctly scholarly type.

A new age has substituted machinery for learning, and public libraries have more and more got away from the old ideal of scholarship. Yet the books are still here, and the opportunity for making use of them, of mastering some of their contents, is greater than ever. We spend our days—forty hours a week—in one of the finest laboratories of learning in the world, a place to which men and women esteem it a

privilege to come, often from great distances, to obtain access to the stores of which we are the guardians and administrators. How many of us realize what is to be made of the books which we handle? How many of us make even a slight attempt to get a little of the culture and knowledge by which we are surrounded?

In a paper recently submitted in connection with the series of Informal Talks, the writer, one of the younger assistants in the Central Library, makes the suggestion that every member of the staff—at least every one of the junior assistants—be required to do a certain amount of serious reading outside hours, and to give an account of it. The idea may not be practicable, but it is gratifying to have the suggestion made by one of those who would benefit by the plan.

There is a happy mean between a bookworm and a salesman—or a "book-carrier," to use Mr. Tripp's expression—and every one of us ought to try to find it. The old type of librarian was often too careless of service, and too completely absorbed in scholarship; the newer type is in danger of forgetting books in the pursuit of efficiency. It would be a fine thing if the Boston Public Library could come to be known as a place where every assistant combines the love and knowledge of books and skill in using them with the spirit of service and a quick eagerness to make the books which we treasure accessible to the public.

NEWS ITEMS.

March and April seem to be months of pilgrimage, to-day as in the time of Chaucer. The following groups of students have recently visited the Library: March 9, a group of twenty-five from the Library School of Simmons College, under the guidance of Miss Harriet E. Howe, Acting Director of the School; March 27 and 29, sixty pupils in the library class of the State Normal School, Salem, accompanied by Miss Agnes C. Blake; March 28, Miss M. M. Whipple, Assistant Li-

brarian of the Somerville Public Library, with the library's training class of seven; March 29, Miss Josephine A. Rathbone, Vice-Director, with twenty students from the Pratt Institute Library School, Brooklyn, N. Y.; April 8, Mr. James I. Wyer, Director of the New York State Library School, Albany, N. Y., with thirty-two students of that institution.

All the parties were shown about the Library by members of the staff, and many of the young women remained to study the work of individual departments. Tea was served in the Staff Room to the Simmons College group, by the ladies of the Library staff.

LIBRARY LIFE welcomes Miss Jordan back to the Library, after a series of enforced absences amounting to more than two months, with the hope that her health is fully restored.

Miss Mary McDonough, of the Ordering Department, was the prize-winner among those submitting papers on the second group of "Informal Talks"; honorable mention was given to the paper written by Miss Edith A. von Schoppe, of the Bates Hall Reference Department. The prize was a copy of the new edition of the useful "Reader's Digest of Books," by Helen Rex Keller, Instructor in Library Economy at Columbia University, who was an assistant in the Special Libraries Department of the Boston Public Library in 1901-1902.

The new building of the West Roxbury Branch will be formally opened to the public on Monday, April 17. A full account of the exercises, with a description of the building, will be printed in the next number of LIBRARY LIFE.

During the past month, a group of interested critics has usually been gathered on the landing of the great stairway in the Central Library, about Mr. Charles Bittering, who has been engaged on a painting of the staircase

hall, and its decorations. Mr. Bittering, who is a member of the Guild of Boston Artists, and an Associate of the National Academy, received his training at the École des Beaux Arts, Paris, and now lives in Duxbury. He has specialized in the painting of palatial interiors, including those of Versailles and of the White House in Washington.

A dictionary card-catalogue of the periodicals currently received in the Library, listed by titles and subjects, has recently been compiled by Mr. Abraham Snyder of the Catalogue Department, and is now on file in the Periodical Room.

The Exhibition Room of the Central Library is now occupied by collections of material commemorating the life and work of Edward Everett Hale (born April 3, 1822), and of Ulysses Simpson Grant (born April 27, 1822).

Those who enjoyed the remarkable exhibition of "Pictorial Possibilities of Boston," made at the Library in January by the Camera Club of the Boston Young Men's Christian Union, will be glad to know that sixteen of these unusual photographs, which revealed so many beauty-spots of Boston, were published in the *Photo-Era* for March.

MRS. SPAULDING.

Mrs. Henrietta A. Spaulding, who had been temporarily employed for some time in the office of the Auditor, died on April 14, after an illness of seven weeks. She was a Boston woman, but had spent a number of her earlier years in Calcutta, India; she had been a widow for a considerable period. She was unusually faithful and accurate in her work, and her place will be hard to fill. Many will miss her quiet "Good morning," and will long remember her pleasant voice, which was

"Ever soft and sweet."

She was buried beside her husband, in Rochester, N. Y.

ODD VOLUMES.

During the week of March 19, a number of members of the Library staff visited the interesting exhibition "illustrating the varied interests of book buyers, 1450-1600," held by the Club of Odd Volumes in their charming house at 50 Mt. Vernon Street, and generously thrown open to the public. The exhibition, to which Mr. George Parker Winship had prepared a very helpful catalogue, included many of the important monuments in the early history of printing, with a few fine examples of the work of modern printers. The presses of Gutenberg, Caxton, Aldus, and Plantin were represented by characteristic works, as were many presses less famous, but quite as important in the development of the printing art. There were numerous imposing illustrated works, such as the "Peregrinationes" of Breydenbach (1486), with a noble view of Venice, more than five feet long; a splendid copy of the Nuremberg "Chronicle," with the illustrations colored by hand; and, standing side by side, the world-maps of Ptolemy (1486) and Ortelius (1586), showing the startling growth in geographical knowledge in that wonderful century.

The beauty of some of the modern books displayed was very gratifying to one who believes that the men of to-day have not wholly lost the power of taking pains. The Kelmscott Chaucer and the Doves Bible are very handsome books, but no book in the exhibition showed finer taste or greater mechanical skill than the noble Tacitus "Opera Minora," printed by Mr. D. B. Updike at the Merrymount Press ("Hilarimontium"), Boston, in 1904.

CATALOGUE NOTES.

The catalogue of Italian books, compiled by Miss Mary H. Rollins, to which reference was recently made in *LIBRARY LIFE*, has been published during the past month, and forms, with its indexes, a pamphlet of 108 pages. It should be understood that this is not a list of all the modern books in Italian possessed by the Library. It is speci-

ally designed to meet the needs of those many intelligent Italians who still feel more at home in their own tongue than they do in English; and subjects in which the average man and woman would be most likely to find interest—history, biography, travel and general literature—have been given particular attention. It is hoped that the resources of the Library along these lines have been more adequately presented than they could have been if the list had been partly in English, and that the catalogue may be considered as one phase of the Library's contribution to the general process known as Americanization.

The list of pageants, announced as in preparation some time ago, will be found in the *Quarterly Bulletin* for April. This list has been compiled by Miss E. Carolyn Merrill, and consists of three sections: (1) Books and magazine articles containing texts or reviews of particular pageants, and works on pageants in general, arranged alphabetically by authors; (2) Miscellaneous material contained in envelopes or folders, arranged alphabetically by places and known as the Pageant File, which is to be consulted in the Fine Arts Department; (3) An index of places covering the works listed in Section 1. Acknowledgment is here made of the great assistance rendered to the Library in collecting pageant material by Miss Lotta A. Clark and Mr. Frank Chouteau Brown. In view of the great popularity of pageants in present days, it is trusted that this list will prove a convenience to persons interested in their preparation or presentation.

"Ten-book lists," Nos. 5-12, have been published, as follows:

No. 5. Recent technical books, by G. S. Maynard.

No. 6. Recent verse, by L. E. Taylor.

No. 7. Business psychology, by P. E. Buckley.

No. 8. Gardens: city and suburban, by John Murdoch.

No. 9. Boston. Historical.

No. 10. Boston. Descriptive.

No. 11. Recent books of European travel, by F. H. Chase.

No. 12. Birds, by John Murdoch.

With the Juniors

Edited by Francis P. Znotas

BASEBALL.

"In the Spring a young man's fancy gently turns to thoughts of —." No, that is not what I mean. The statement in this case ends with "Baseball" with a capital B. The big league season has started; schools, colleges and clubs have organized teams. Why not a Library team? We have boys enough. Gloves, balls, and bats have already been seen in the building. For the past two years attempts, it is known, have been made to organize various athletic teams. For the most part these attempts were total failures. A baseball team was organized last summer. The Library Juniors played the Arrow A. A. to a disputed 10 to 10 tie. Get together, fellows, and see if something can't be done this year. If you are interested, see Harry Schromm of the Shipping Department. Let's go!

FILING SLIPS.

When books are returned, they are discharged at the time-tray and the slips are taken to the Issue indicator, where the indicator cards are to be taken out. From the Issue Department the slips are relayed to the Bates Hall indicator, and then the Open-Shelf Room slips are sent down stairs. If the attendant at the Issue indicator will place the slips in order, it will not only be helpful when taking out the cards, but will facilitate matters for those at the Centre Desk and in turn for the attendant in the Open-Shelf Room. When slips and indicator cards from the Open-Shelf Room are made out for filing, if they are placed in numerical order the result will be quicker work at the indicators and better service to the public, let alone the co-operation with your fellow-workers. The same suggestion applies in the case of slips made out at the fiction bookcase.

When you are crossing a slip, be sure you do not obliterate the call number.

ACCOMMODATION.

First Attendant: "Why don't you die?"

Second Attendant: "That's a fine question to ask."

First: "I'd get your forty-five cent job then. You're my friend, besides."

Second: "Because I'm your friend you want me to die?"

First: "Yes, you know, friends to the end. It will be for my benefit."

Second: "Where does my benefit come in?"

First: "O, you'll be resting for life."

THE CHILDREN'S ROOM SYSTEM. II.

On the same side of the room as the fairy tales, arranged between the entrance of the courtyard balcony and the door of the Teachers' Room, then continuing to the windows facing Boylston Street, are the ranges devoted to fiction. These books, like the fairy tales, are arranged alphabetically by authors. If a writer's works consist of several volumes, they are all placed on the same shelf, then arranged alphabetically by title. When an author writes under a pen-name, his books are placed under his or her real name. The following examples include most of those in the Children's Room:

PEN-NAME.	REAL NAME.
Coolidge, Susan.	Woolsey, Sarah C.
Cotes, Mrs. Everard.	Duncan, Sara J.
Dunton, Edith K.	Warde, Margaret.
Hegan, Alice C.	Rice, Alice C. H.
Jacobs, Caroline E.	Elliott, Emilia.
James, Martha.	Doyle, Martha C.
Mark Twain.	Clemens, Samuel L.
Nesbit, Edith.	Bland, Edith.
Otis, James.	Kaler, James O.
Ouida	De la Ramée, Louise.
Phelps, Elizabeth S.	Ward, Elizabeth S. P.
Rolt-Wheeler, F. W.	Wheeler, F. W. R.
Sidney, Margaret.	Lothrop, Harriet M.
Zwilmeyer, Dikken.	Poulsson, Emilie.

Our Neighbor Libraries

SOCIOLOGY IN THE LIBRARIES OF BOSTON.

The ramifications of sociology are so great that even to mention the libraries where sociological material can be found would take much space and be in the end as interesting as the Boston directory, or the genealogical chapters in the Bible. It goes without saying that the large libraries, like the Boston Public Library or that of Harvard College, have a splendid general collection, and that there the student of any subject may expect to find what he wants. Of the special libraries in Boston, however, all but two have their emphasis elsewhere than on sociology. Those two are the Town Room at 3 Joy St., and the Social Service Library at 18 Somerset St. Many people think these two libraries cover the same ground, but although they have some duplicate material, the focus is at different points.

The Town Room, as its name implies, is a library full of material which touches in any way upon the development or welfare of a town. Architecture, zoning, village improvement, play-grounds, public health, are all represented, and then, because a town exists by virtue of the people gathered in it, there is material on sociology. The librarian has made Boston her object lesson for towns in general, and she is what one might call an authority on authorities. She can tell what person would be best called upon to speak on a given subject, and she can put people interested in the same problems in touch with each other. The library was started by Mr. Joseph Lee for the purpose of showing how to beautify towns physically, economically and socially. It is now under the jurisdiction of the Twentieth Century Club, and is free to anyone for reference. Those who are not members of the Twentieth Century Club may take books from the Room on payment of a dollar a year.

The Social Service Library was started under the auspices of the Children's Aid Society. When it outgrew its quarters there, it was taken over by Simmons College for the benefit of its students in the School of Social Work, and was opened to the public as a free reference and lending library. The time has gone by when the equipment of the social worker is limited to ready sympathy, and the library contains books to train him for his work. There are books on general sociology, which includes social psychology, historical sociology, social philosophy and ethics; books on social problems, embracing crime, poverty, immigration, race relations, family relations, child welfare, industrial relations (when they are social, not economic), and so forth; and finally, books on the technique of social "case" work, neighborhood work, community organization, and institutional management. In addition to these there are important files of the reports of public and private social agencies, proceedings of societies, special reports of conferences, and public documents. Then, because sociology is gregarious, the collection touches on the allied subjects: economics, government, education, public health, mental diseases, etc.

There are those who say that the Town Room covers normal conditions and the Social Service Library abnormal ones. At first this seems plausible, but later one realizes that it is because of the abnormal conditions existing in a town that the Social Service Library has to have material on them. The real distinction is that the Town Room ranges from architecturally beautiful front doors to unhygienic sewers, and from making a bar-room into a community center to beautifying a graveyard—it spreads itself; while the Social Service Library has had to confine itself to material of value to the student of social work and those interested in modern social problems.

M. W.

Library Organizations

STAFF CLUB.

The Staff Club will hold its next meeting in the Staff Lecture Room on Wednesday evening, April 26, at 8 o'clock. Mr. Henry L. Gideon, who gave the Club a delightful evening last year, will speak on "Russia in Music," and will be assisted by an able pianist. At this meeting the Club will elect a nominating committee of three to present a list of officers at the annual meeting in May.

The sub-committee in charge of the meeting consists of Miss Barbara Duncan, chairman; Miss Margaret A. Calnan, Miss Elsie M. Coolidge, and Miss Jeannette M. Shutt.

"THE DOUGHBOY IN THE RHINELAND."

At the Staff Club meeting on March 29 Dr. Sarah E. Palmer, who has spent the past two summers in Coblenz, gave a stimulating talk on the A. E. F., the effect on our army of the cessation of hostilities, the work of the "Y," and the condition of the boys who are now returning from Germany. She said in part:

"The boys who are coming home by every transport have made a part of the American community on the Rhine, known officially as A. F. in G., 'American Forces in Germany.' This was our first international adventure in military idealism, an army at peace to guard the peace.

"The Third Army, disbanded July 6, 1919, was a part of that A. E. F., which, with the Allies and Associates, had fought and won the great war. Boys who were on the fighting front at 11 o'clock on the 11th of November, 1918, relate that when the roar of war suddenly ceased, the sudden and unexplained silence was the most terrifying thing they had ever known. The problems of peace had begun.

"By military command the Third Army, formed from the two American armies in the field, started on the 17th of November, 1918, at exactly 5.30 a.m.,

to follow the retreating Germans, along with the fifth French Army on the left and the tenth French on the right. To the sound of music, with flowers in their bayonets and flags flying, the defeated Germans had crossed the bridge and wound up over the hill in Coblenz, marching over the Rhine on a field of posters bearing the words, 'You are not defeated, but overwhelmed by superior numbers,' signed, 'The women of Germany.' Silently following, the Allies and the Americans crossed the Rhine and took up the task of policing what had been the military centre of the German army.

"In July, 1919, the duties of the A. E. F. were over. American politics and the American Government had sidestepped any active participation in European affairs. It is therefore as idealists that we have maintained, along with our former associates, our part in holding the border of peace.

"The troops chosen for this duty were from the regular army, recruited from every rank of life. In general the make-up was of a class in need of training, not only in military tactics, but very often in the rudiments of education. All enthusiasm had gone, and the troops were marking time, with no immediate prospect of service. Many had enlisted under age, or at the very earliest age limit. For the years of occupation of the A. F. in G., the special need of welfare organizations was recognized, to provide for the leisure of the boys, to make a home for them in a foreign land."

In speaking of the club work, Dr. Palmer said, "In every district where there are soldiers there is a 'Y' hut. Any building conveniently situated and large enough for the purpose is taken and made into a charming club, which the boys may use as their own. There are open fires, tinted walls, a canteen furnished with bright china and decorated with flowers, a library supplied from the central deposit established by the A. L. A., and now taken over by the army, an orchestra, a bulletin board to provide instruction regarding cur-

rent events, motion pictures, illustrated lectures, services on Sunday, and a fine woman, or two or three, as the size of the division demands, to advise and sympathize."

In closing she reminded her audience that "From this community life the boys are coming home eager to be welcomed, but confused as to the next step. For many, military life is over, and from the care-free life of the soldier they enter on the duties of citizens. In a Democracy it is the individual who counts. Every returning soldier needs a friend."

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The Secretary of the Association reports that Miss Amy M. Eaton, of the Roxbury Branch, is at Milford, N. H., recovering from an illness, and that Miss Fanny Goldstein, of the Tyler Street Reading Room, is at her home, convalescent after her recent operation.

PENSION COMMITTEE.

The Committee on Pensions has an encouraging report to submit. There have been many hearings at the State House before the Committee on Social Welfare, and several conferences between the Boston Finance Commission and representatives of the various parties interested in the bill, House No. 57, submitted by the Commission.

The elementary school teachers, through their counsel, ex-Attorney-General Herbert Parker, object to the clause in the bill which includes them in its provisions; on the other hand, the men teachers, masters, principals, and practically all of the high-school teachers, wish to be included. It will thus be seen that the teachers as a whole are about evenly divided in their attitude toward the measure. The police are practically a unit in their objection to being included.

The municipal clerks have introduced a bill, House No. 967, which runs almost parallel with No. 57, but differs in one important detail and in one or two minor matters. They are represented by ex-Senator John Jackson Walsh.

It is significant that there has been no opposition whatever to the fundamental principle of the measure, which provides for a pension based upon years of service, to equal an annuity purchased by the contributions of the employee and depending in amount wholly upon the term of service. There are of course qualifications and conditions provided in addition to meet prior service, ordinary disability, accident, death, etc.

All in all, the Finance Commission has submitted an admirable bill, forward-looking and seeking to do justice to employees and taxpayers alike. The Committee hearings closed on April 4th; it is expected that the bill will soon be favorably reported to the House for action. To become a law it must receive the Governor's signature, and be accepted by the Mayor and City Council of Boston before September 1st of the current year. If accepted, it becomes operative on February 1, 1923.

In a number of the Boston papers of April 14th and 15th there was published an open letter from the Library Pension Committee, setting forth the arguments for the bill. Among other facts, it states that the city of San Francisco has recently adopted a contributory pension system for its employees, based upon the Boston plan. The bill proposed would put no compulsion upon any one; it "has to do with the future entirely, and in no way interferes with the prerogatives or privileges of present beneficiaries of other systems." The Chamber of Commerce indorses the bill and advocates its adoption.

J. W. K.

NOTES.

The Women's Club of Melrose has just done a graceful act in presenting to the Library ten lantern slides of Boston subjects, in recognition of courtesies which they have received.

The engagement of Miss Santa M. Costa, of the Issue Department, to Mr. Salvatore La Badessa, has just been announced.

News Notes on Government Publications

Edited by Edith Guerrier

Bulletin No. 24

April 15, 1922

Supplement to "Library Life," Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

HAVE FAITH IN MASSACHUSETTS DOCUMENTS.

A wealth of information about the government, educational opportunities, industries, and statistics of the State of Massachusetts is published each year by the various departments and offices of the State government. This information, like that found between the covers of the United States Federal documents, is called for frequently, but the questioner is rarely able to refer by title to the publication which contains the desired knowledge. A few typical questions follow, with their answers:

"Where can I find out what subjects are covered by the course for Massachusetts supervisors of music?"

Answer: In the Catalogue of the State Normal School, Lowell, Mass.

"Where can I find the different hand signals for motorists, and what they mean?"

Answer: In "Things that Every Owner and Operator of Motor Vehicles should know."

"Where can I get statistics of the marine insurance companies doing business in Massachusetts?"

Answer: In the Annual Report of the Commissioner of Insurance.

"Where can I get the addresses of the trade unions in Worcester, Mass.?"

Answer: In the Directory of Labor Organizations, issued by the Department of Labor and Industries.

"What were the receipts of the Boston Elevated Railway during the years 1916, 1917, 1918, 1919, 1920, and 1921?"

Answer: See the Annual Report of the Public Trustees of the Boston Elevated Railway for 1921.

"What was the tax rate in Pittsfield, Mass., in 1921?"

Answer: See "Statistics of the Public Schools," 1920-1921.

"What are the laws for credit unions?"

Answer: See "Credit Unions, Statistics Relating Thereto."

"What were the principal causes of fires in Massachusetts last year?"

Answer: See "Report on Fires."

"What banks in Massachusetts have savings bank insurance and old age pensions?"

Answer: See "Savings Bank Life Insurance and Old Age Pensions."

In an endeavor to arrange the Massachusetts current documents so that the information they contain may be made easily available, a plan has been worked out, under which the documents, both those which have document numbers and those which are unnumbered, are classified under the issuing offices, which are in turn arranged alphabetically.

Thanks are due to the State Supervisor of Administration, through whose courtesy the list of offices issuing printed matter and the titles of the pamphlets they have issued during the past few years was obtained.

The first group of the collection is arranged under the heading

GOVERNOR AND COUNCIL.

Notes are given only in cases where the title does not clearly indicate the scope of the text.

SUPERVISOR OF ADMINISTRATION.

Annual Report (Document No. 119).

The 1920 report describes briefly the work of the various State departments,

and gives the cost of their maintenance for the current year.

List of Officials and Employees of the Commonwealth (Document No. 90).

Specifications and Rules for Classification of Personal Service of the Commonwealth of Mass. 1918. Includes: *General rules and regulations governing entrance, advancement, and promotion in the service of the Commonwealth of Mass.*

Specifications for positions in the departmental service of the Commonwealth.

ATTORNEY-GENERAL.

Annual Report (Document No. 12).

This report cites the indictments for murder pending at the date of the last annual report and states the sentences imposed. It includes a partial report of automobile thefts, and "Opinions" of the Attorney-General on a wide variety of cases submitted for his decision.

Opinions of Attorneys-General of Massachusetts, vol. 4, covering the years 1913-1916; issued by the Attorney-General in pursuance of the authority contained in Resolves of 1917, chapter III.

AUDITOR OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Annual Report (Document No. 6).

This report gives the expenses and revenues of the Commonwealth for the year. A list of the sources of revenue is given on page 8. The two largest sources appear to be war-bonus taxes and motor vehicle registrations.

Pay Roll Regulations.

SUPERINTENDENT OF BUILDINGS.

Annual Report (Document No. 130).

The Report for the year 1920 deals largely with the Supply Division of the Superintendent of Buildings, which was created in order to centralize the tremendous purchasing power of the State, as represented by the aggregate yearly consumption of materials and supplies by the various departments. This purpose was to be accomplished by reducing the variety of supplies used

throughout the State, by standardization, and by quantity buying, to reduce the cost of the articles so purchased.

The Supply Division has made an effort to standardize on articles that are used to a considerable extent, and it is gradually culling out stock that is suited to the individual need rather than to the general needs of the various departments.

Beginning on page 24 is given a list of the State departments, followed by the numbers of the rooms which they occupy in the State House.

THE STATE LIBRARY.

Annual Report of the Trustees of the State Library (Document No. 3).

The report states that the total number of volumes on the library shelves is 397,843.

STATE EXAMINERS OF PLUMBERS.

List of Plumbers.

Laws relating to licensing of plumbers and list of plumbers registered by the Massachusetts State Examiners of Plumbers, together with plumbing rules. The rules for examinations are given.

COMMISSION ON PROBATION.

Annual Report (Document No. 85).

The 1920 report gives a brief history of the work of the Commission from its creation in 1908 to date. An interesting paragraph is as follows:

"Drunkness arrests in the State for the year were 36,463. The number in 1919 was 77,925. In earlier years it exceeded 100,000. Forty-one thousand fewer arrests for this one cause in 1920 than in 1919 suggest a marked change for the police and the courts. The number of these cases which reached the courts was only 18,057, as against 29,824 the year before. It would have shown a larger reduction if the release by the probation officer without arraignment had not been more sparingly used. In former years 70 per cent or more of the arrested "drunks" were so released. In 1919 the proportion released was 61.8; in 1920 it fell to 50.4 per cent.

"The indication is that the court now wishes to deal with the inebriate rather than to let him go, after arrest, without its discipline. Doubtless the number of arrests is larger in proportion to the extent of drinking than under the licensed sale of liquor. To be drunk in public is a more conspicuous because a less common situation. It leads to arrest where it would formerly have been passed by. The liquor consumed is more disturbing and makes its victim more offensive. That there were, however, 36,463 arrests for drunkenness in the State in a full prohibition year suggests how far short of success enforcement has thus far fallen."

Statistics on all phases of this problem are given in the appendix.

Probation Manual.

This handy little volume gives the probation laws, an outline of the duties and powers of probation officers, and general rules for their guidance, all reprinted from the General Laws, and grouped under such headings as Destitute Parents, Delinquent Children, etc. At the end of the manual is an alphabetical list of Massachusetts towns, with their court jurisdictions.

Massachusetts Probation Officers, revised to September 15, 1921.

Directory of Probation Officers, with their addresses and telephone numbers.

Forty Years of Probation. Reprinted from the *Boston Transcript*, July 27, 1918.

SUPERVISOR OF PUBLIC RECORDS.

Annual Report (Document No. 52).

This report notes all important changes in the housing or care of town and city records within the State. It also gives a list of typewriter ribbons and of stamping pads and inks approved for use.

BOARD OF RETIREMENT.

Annual Report (Document no. 99).

The Retirement System for Employees of the Commonwealth.

This circular explains the provisions of Chapter 532, Acts of the Year 1911,

and acts in amendment thereof and additions thereto, 1919. The system created by the act of 1911 is a contributory system, the fundamental idea of which is that the retirement allowance shall be one-half purchased by the savings of the employee, which have been deducted from his salary during the term of his employment, and one-half contributed by the Commonwealth.

SECRETARY OF THE COMMONWEALTH.

Annual Report (Document No. 46).

"The annual report of the transactions of this office for the year ending Nov. 30, 1921, includes the votes of the cities and towns on the question of granting licenses for the sale of certain non-intoxicating beverages; the returns of the sheriffs of the several counties of money received by them, and of their attendance upon a court of record and the county commissioners; a report showing the aggregate vote, both affirmative and negative, on every act or part of an act which shall have been referred by the General Court for acceptance or rejection to the voters of the Commonwealth or of any part thereof, or to the city council of any city, during the calendar year 1921; and a record of the work of this Department in respect to public records under chapter 66 of the General Laws."

Under the "Public Document Division," the Secretary reports that 99,325 volumes of the Public Documents Series, representing 87 different reports of the several State departments, boards, and commissions, were printed during the year 1921. In addition to this, 26 supplemental publications were issued. The cost of printing and binding these publications was \$76,950.03. In addition to the Public Document Series, 134,056 publications were distributed through this division, making a grand total of 223,381 volumes.

Abstract of the Certificates of Corporations organized under the General Laws of Massachusetts (Document No. 10).

This Abstract lists alphabetically all companies incorporated under the laws

of Massachusetts and gives the following information about each: name of corporation; where located; authorized capital stock; par value of shares; number of shares; amount of capital stock to be issued and to be paid for; date of organization; date of incorporation.

Historical data relating to Counties, Cities and Towns in Massachusetts.

The towns and cities are listed under the counties in which they are located, and the following information is given about each: when the town or city was first mentioned in records of the State or therein recorded as established or incorporated; from what other territory it was established or incorporated; changes of boundary, incorporation as a city, extinction, and other facts contained in the records of the State.

This is a very useful publication.

Information relative to Voluntary Associations Owning or Controlling Public Service Corporations. 1920. (Document No. 101.)

This report gives agreements and declarations of Trust of such companies as the Central Massachusetts Light & Power Company, the Old Colony Light & Power Associates, the Boston & Worcester Electric Companies, the New Hampshire Electric Railways, etc.

The Population of Massachusetts as Determined by the Fourteenth Census of the United States. 1920.

A census of the population is taken in Massachusetts every five years. The next one will be on January 1, 1925.

Annual Report of the Vital Statistics of Massachusetts: Births, Marriages, Divorces and Deaths.

From 1841 to 1920 inclusive 4,172,922 births have been reported and tabulated in the Commonwealth. In 1920 the city of Fall River had the largest birth rate among cities of over 100,000 inhabitants in the State.

Number of Assessed Polls, Registered Voters and Persons who Voted in Each Voting Precinct at the City and Town Elections, together with the Number of Votes received by Each Candidate for Nomination and for Election for a State Office in the Year 1921, with a Statement of Other Matters relating to Elections, such as number of votes received by each candidate for a State Office at the last annual State election, arranged by cities, towns, and districts (Document No. 43).

COMMISSIONER OF STATE AID AND PENSIONS.

Annual Report (Document No. 68).

The total amounts paid out by the Commissioner in 1920 were as follows:

State aid to soldiers and dependents, Civil War . . .	\$411,450.26
State aid to soldiers and dependents, War with Spain . . .	11,151.50
State aid to dependents, German War Service . . .	9,496.83
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, Civil War . . .	8,597.05
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, War with Spain . . .	7,742.00
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, Mexican Border . . .	590.00
Military aid to soldiers and sailors, War with Germany . . .	41,047.75
Burial expenses of indigent soldiers and their dependents . . .	12,097.87
Total for 1920 . . .	\$502,173.26

Chapter 115 of the General Laws: State and Military Aid, Soldiers' Relief, etc.

Chapter 116 of the General Laws: Settlement Law.

TREASURER AND RECEIVER-GENERAL.

Annual Report (Document No. 5).

In this report tables appear under the following headings: Revenue; Funds; Funded Debt; Sinking Fund Securities; Income and Direct Debt Sinking Funds; Trust Funds; Agency Accounts; Metropolitan District Funds; Trust Deposits and Incomes.

1921 Assessments for Interest, Sinking Funds, Serial Bonds, and Maintenance of the Metropolitan Districts (Document No. 92.)

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume I, No. 8

May 15, 1922

CONTENTS.

LIBRARY LECTURES, 1897-1922	85	MISS BARBARA DUNCAN	93
DEDICATION OF NEW BUILDING OF WEST ROXBURY BRANCH LIBRARY	87	WITH THE JUNIORS	94
THE RED CAVALIER	88	OUR NEIGHBOR LIBRARIES	95
INFORMAL TALKS TO JUNIOR ASSISTANTS	89	LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS	96
EDITORIALS	90		
NEWS ITEMS	90		
CATALOGUE NOTES	91		
EXHIBITIONS	92		

SUPPLEMENT.

NEWS NOTES ON GOVERNMENT PUBLI- CATIONS, No. 25	*29 - *32
--	-----------

LIBRARY LECTURES, 1897-1922.

The first public lecture in the present Library building was given in March, 1897. It seems proper therefore to give some cognizance to the 25th anniversary of what has developed into an important Library activity.

The early lectures were exclusively on subjects relating to the fine arts, and were the expansion of the numerous classes and club meetings held in the recently opened Fine Arts Department, as a means of bringing the collections of books and photographs to the attention of school teachers, architects, artists and the general public. The first illustrated lectures were given under the auspices and at the expense of the Unity Art Club and the Pallas Club. The attendance was so large at the very beginning that some of the lectures had to be repeated several times.

The present Lecture Hall was used at that period as a newspaper reading room, and all kinds of makeshifts had to be resorted to in the attempt to accommodate the public lectures. The present Exhibition Room, the Barton Room, and the room now occupied by the Statistical Department were used in succession.

The Lecture Hall was formally opened on May 17, 1899. Advantage was taken of the gift of a copy of

Chantrey's bust of Sir Walter Scott, and the unveiling of the bust was made the occasion of the opening of the hall. President Solomon Lincoln of the Board of Trustees presided, and the principal address was delivered by President Charles W. Eliot of Harvard University; other speakers were Rev. James DeNormandie, Mayor Josiah Quincy, Professor A. Lawrence Lowell, Edward Robinson, Director of the Museum of Fine Arts, and Hon. Charles Francis Adams.

Under the direct auspices of the Library Trustees, a course of lectures was given in the new Lecture Hall in March and April, 1900. The speakers were Messrs. Whitney, Swift, Ford and Fleischner of the Library Staff, Col. T. W. Higginson, Dr. William Everett, Rev. E. E. Hale, and Mr. C. W. Ernst.

A second course offered by the Trustees, on Methods of Municipal Administration, was given in March and April, 1901, the speakers being Professors A. Lawrence Lowell, E. Emerson, Kuno Francke, and F. G. Peabody of Harvard, Prof. W. T. Sedgwick, Mr. Henry Goodnough, and Mr. George L. Fox.

A third course, on the Aesthetic Development of Cities, was given in March, April and May, 1902.

The Unity Art Club lectures continued until 1904. In that year what may be called the "Thursday evening

courses" were properly inaugurated. Regular courses were provided by the Boston Architectural Club, the Society of Printers, and other organizations.

The Field and Forest Club arranged its first course of lectures on outdoor life on Monday evenings in 1910; the course was combined with the Thursday evening course in 1915, and still continues with great success.

The first lecture under the auspices of the Boston Ruskin Club was given in 1907; since 1914 the Club has held bi-weekly open meetings in the Lecture Hall, with occasional lectures on general topics.

The Sunday afternoon lectures were begun in 1912; since that year the Boston Drama League has provided four lectures annually on the drama and the stage, with growing popularity.

The first music lecture was given by the late Louis C. Elson in 1906. At least four lectures on music, with instrumental or vocal illustrations, are now regularly included in the Sunday courses.

Since 1908 the programmes for the entire course have been printed in the Bulletin for October 1.

In 1900 a stereopticon was purchased, and in 1920 a Steinway grand piano was added; it is hoped that a moving picture equipment will be installed in the near future.

In all, nine hundred and sixty lectures have been given by five hundred lecturers, of whom four hundred were men and one hundred women. Of this number, about thirty were architects, thirty-two professors and instructors in Harvard University, twelve from the Museum of Fine Arts, five from the Massachusetts Normal Art School, and four each from the Public Schools of Boston, Boston College, Boston University, the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Tufts College; ten lectures were given by members of the Library staff. Yale, Brown, Princeton, Wellesley, Simmons, and the New England Conservatory of Music also provided one or more lectures each. The remainder of the lecturers have been professional men and women, many of national reputation, travellers, scholars, and other public-spirited citizens.

Space does not permit giving even a partial list of the lecturers. The following list of speakers who gave four or more lectures will give some idea of the readiness of busy men to give their services for the public good: H. T. Bailey, 4; C. H. Bayley, 4; E. H. Baynes, 7; E. C. Black, 9; J. C. Bowker, 8; F. C. Brown, 10; C. T. Carruth, 10; F. H. Chase, 6; A. S. Cooley, 19; J. R. Coolidge, Jr., 7; R. A. Cram, 6; O. Downes, 10; H. Elliott, 5; L. C. Elson, 4; T. A. Fox, 4; C. W. Furlong, 4; T. I. Gasson, 8; H. L. Gideon, 12; A. H. Gilmer, 6; F. M. Greene, 13; F. W. Hersey, 31; L. Jeffers, 4; A. M. Keyes, 4; W. H. Kilham, 6; J. K. Lacock, 4; G. W. Lee, 5; L. R. Lewis, 5; D. G. Lyon, 4; L. C. Newhall, 5; C. S. Olcott, 4; A. K. Peck, 4; M. E. Peck, 10; H. W. Poor, 8; H. H. Powers, 13; G. Richardson, 4; R. E. Rogers, 5; A. D. Ropes, 7; L. M. Rossi, 4; A. S. Schmidt, 5; M. A. S. Shannon, 14; R. C. Sturgis, 4; H. Taylor, 4; W. L. Underwood, 16; F. H. Wade, 16; H. G. Wadlin, 7; C. H. Walker, 12; L. Whiting, 4.

These bald figures give no idea of the sacrifices in time and energy and even outlay of money of the unselfish men and women who without hesitation have repeatedly responded to the appeals of the writer for advice and help; this is especially true of the days of the inception and early growth of the Fine Arts Department. The members of the Boston Architectural Club and the Society of Printers will well remember the consultations and meetings held to arrange suitable lectures and exhibitions and to devise an attractive bait to draw an audience.

The writer thankfully looks back on the almost uninterrupted, prosperous career of the course; with the exception of four or five cases of severe weather or sickness, all the lectures were given as announced in the programmes.

The writer is also thankful that with the exception of three dates when he was prevented by illness, and the entire season of 1906-7, when he was sentenced to the City Hospital on account of a serious accident, he has been permitted to arrange, supervise and attend all the public lectures in these twenty-five years.

O. F.

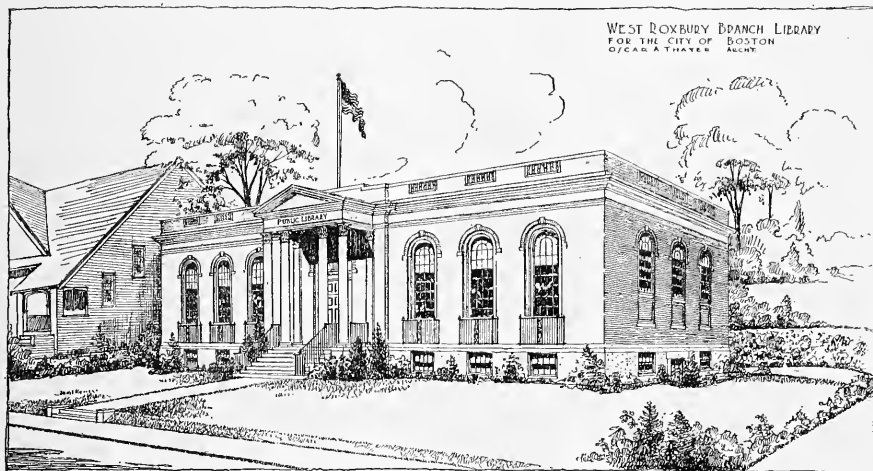
DEDICATION OF NEW BUILDING OF WEST ROXBURY BRANCH LIBRARY.

(Condensed by permission from *West Roxbury News* of April 22.)

The formal dedication of the new building of the West Roxbury Branch Library took place on Monday, April 17. There were present over 300 citizens, besides visitors and school children. The hall was beautifully decorated with palms and Easter lilies.

Council appropriated money for the site and for the erection of the building. Mr. Thayer was selected as architect by the Mayor and the Trustees, plans were matured under the direction of Mr. Belden, the Librarian, and Mr. Ward, Chief of the Branch Department; and Mr. Joseph Rugo, the contractor, began his work. The corner stone was laid September 10, 1921, and the building was accepted by the city March 31, 1922.

Mr. Morse explained that besides the beautiful hall for the library, in



Mr. George H. Nutting, chairman of the general committee, presided, and after music by the Highland Male Quartet, he introduced Francis A. Morse, Master Emeritus of the Robert Gould Shaw School, as the representative of the community and as the one person best qualified to give the history of the new library building.

Mr. Morse spoke of the success of the architect, Oscar A. Thayer, in achieving architectural beauty while meeting the requirements of expert library service, and then explained the formation of the general committee, in 1919, from representatives of the six churches, the clubs and organizations and the Legion Post. The committee finally voted unanimously to request the city government to acquire the present site at the corner of Centre and Bellevue Streets. The site was approved by every church and organization, by the Trustees of the Public Library and His Honor Mayor Peters, and the City

which the exercises were being held, there was, below, a hall with seating capacity for 200 persons, retiring room for the librarian and her assistants, supply rooms, etc.

Mr. Morse closed his address with an earnest plea for a public opinion that would help to teach the young to appreciate this beautiful building and the library, to be careful of them and the grounds that surround them, and to enter the building with the idea of study and not of sociability.

In the absence of His Honor the Mayor, Mr. Belden, in a few appropriate words, in the name of the city, delivered the keys of the building to Dr. Alexander Mann, the president of the Board of Trustees.

Dr. Mann, on receiving the keys, delivered an eloquent address, expressing his delight and satisfaction at the completion of this beautiful and practical building, and the privilege of participating in its dedication. He paid a

glowing tribute to the community that had shown such a unanimous spirit and appointed a committee that could obtain unanimous results. Such an exhibition of feeling was an excellent example to other parts of the city, for often when an attempt was made to secure some desirable and necessary improvement, there developed dissensions that resulted in obtaining nothing, for the city cannot grant requests to communities that do not know their own mind. He asked for the assistance of this community in obtaining books, so much needed throughout the city. This expense was second to none in its importance for the public welfare.

The Rev. Arthur T. Connolly of the Board of Trustees was the next speaker. He spoke with much feeling of his appreciation of the work that West Roxbury citizens had accomplished in securing the new building and working so unanimously for the public good. He also emphasized the good example thus shown to the rest of the city and the very great assistance given to improvement generally. There was only one sure way to obtain desired improvements and that was to follow this example. He dwelt upon the influence the Library should have on the minds of the people to uplift them and help them to live on a higher plane of thought and action.

The Rev. Edward H. Byington delivered a touchingly beautiful dedicatory prayer, and the exercises closed with the singing of "America."

The West Roxbury Free Library, organized in 1863, owned 3000 volumes in 1876, in that year became a delivery station of the Boston Public Library, and a branch in 1896. The collection now numbers 11,000 volumes, with an annual circulation of 68,000.

THE RED CAVALIER.

In the new book by Miss Gladys Edson Locke of the Catalogue Room, entitled "The Red Cavalier," an old English castle with a ghost, two mysterious murders, a Hindu prince seeking to avenge a wrong to Brahma, and the theft of a priceless ruby, com-

bine to make a tale of intrigue which is ingeniously worked out.

The story opens with a race between two taxi-cabs to a house agent's office in London, one cab occupied by Miss Egerton, an elderly and obstinate but courageous English lady accompanied by her young friend, Lord Borrowdean, the other by Prince Kassim Bardai and a Brahmin priest.

Both Miss Egerton and the Prince ardently desired to secure the occupancy of a famous castle, "Twin Towers," in which the late owner, a collector of Indian curios, had been mysteriously murdered two years before. Miss Egerton wanted that particular castle in order to enable her to arrange a marriage between her scapegrace nephew and a nearby heiress, and the Prince wanted it for reasons known only to himself, which were disclosed later. Miss Egerton won out by a few seconds, secured the lease, and rushed off to take possession in spite of anonymous warnings, gloomy tales and strange forebodings. Then the trouble began. Robberies alarmed the neighborhood, idols crashed at midnight, and the Red Cavalier, a sad rake and dead three hundred years, was seen fleeing across the moors in the darkness, clad in the scarlet costume of his portrait, which hung in the castle dining hall. But Miss Egerton was undismayed. She assembled a house-party, scoffed at spooks, and allowed her nephew to arrange a costume ball to which Prince Bardai was bidden. He came, arrayed in great splendor, wearing a wonderful ruby on his breast. Later in the evening his dead body was found in the library with a stained dagger by his side. The ruby was missing. Miss Egerton immediately cleared the house of guests and notified Scotland Yard. Many clues wind in and out and suspicion fastens on a number of persons, but the mystery of who really killed the Prince and got the ruby is only unraveled in a dramatic scene at the end. Incidentally, a love affair works out hopefully.

The story is written with a confident hand, and is perhaps Miss Locke's best book.

T. E. M.

INFORMAL TALKS TO JUNIOR ASSISTANTS.

On Thursday morning, April 20, the course of Informal Talks was brought to a close by Mr. Belden, who summed up his impressions of the talks which had preceded and gave to the younger members of the staff some practical and stimulating thoughts on "Your Future in the Library Profession."

He spoke of the personality of the eleven different librarians who had given addresses as marked emphatically by the fact that they were "givers." They all showed the results of education and culture, but enthusiasm for their work and satisfaction in its rewards were the outstanding traits of all the speakers alike.

Mr. Belden quoted from a pamphlet entitled, "Books and a Profession," as follows:

"It is obvious that special knowledge, technical efficiency, administrative skill and high personal qualities are important factors in the librarian's success. His reward consists in the satisfaction of doing well a task requiring the best abilities; in the opportunity to deal with vital things and to serve his age and his community; in the daily contact with books and with people, and in the individual development incident to this; in the consciousness that his first function is to promote knowledge, without fear or prejudice or favor; and in a salary which will compare favorably with what he might expect to receive in any form of educational work."

There is a growing demand for librarians in all sorts of special fields, but preparation is necessary if one would be fitted for openings when they occur. Anyone who is attracted by specialized forms of library service should lose no time in studying with the object of preparing for it. It is only as we know the requirements and demands of library work and fit ourselves definitely for specific positions that we can hope to find opportunities for advancement opening before us. Whatever the educational attainments of each one may be, all library assis-

tants who would succeed should aim to develop good health, that intangible quality called "personality" and enthusiasm for their work, no matter how small it is.

Mr. Belden, in quoting the well known lines in Julius Caesar,

"The fault dear Brutus, is not in our stars
But in ourselves, that we are underlings,"
pressed the point that it was not a matter of luck, or chance, or fate that a person in any employment failed to achieve real success; that can be attained only through live interest, close study and hard work.

In closing, he urged those present to keep the run of the *Library Journal* and *Public Libraries*, to attend meetings of library clubs and organizations, and to take advantage of the courses offered by Simmons College and the lecture courses maintained by the Library; but most of all he urged everyone to make the most of the books by which we are surrounded. Any assistant who wishes can obtain help in planning courses of reading. Good books enlarge the mind, fit us for higher positions, and are a source of some of the most enduring satisfactions of life.

Recent Dante books in the Library were exhibited by Mr. L. E. Taylor, of the Catalogue Room, at the annual meeting of the Dante Society, May 16, at the house of Professor Grandgent in Cambridge. The collection included facsimiles of William Blake's illustrations to the *Divine Comedy*; photographs of Abbate's bust of Dante; colored postal cards of Mastroiani's plaster models illustrating the *Divine Comedy*, given by the Cavaliere L. Melano Rossi; and a number of publications celebrating the Dante centenary. Among the latter were manuals, pageants, notices of exhibitions, and reading lists issued by the public libraries of Brooklyn, Cambridge, Chicago, Springfield, Pittsburgh, and Boston. Of special interest was Besso's "*La fortuna di Dante fuori d'Italia*," on Dante's influence outside of Italy, a beautifully decorated work on paper having Dante's portrait as a watermark. This copy was given to the North End Branch by the author.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. I, No. 8.

May 15, 1922

VACATION.

AS LIBRARY LIFE enters on its first vacation season it reflects with some satisfaction on its success in living through its first volume. Sage heads prophesied that it would not survive its sixth number, and many believed that it would have difficulty in finding appropriate material for its pages from month to month.

At first the editors shared this fear, and expected each month that something would have to be manufactured out of whole cloth for the next issue; but as winter passed into spring, with no lack of material for the paper, they ceased to be anxious on this score. It is evident that the life of the Library affords plenty of good subject-matter for LIBRARY LIFE.

It is merely a problem of training in observation. The objects nearest at hand are often the last to be seen; the Library is more interesting than we realized until we began to keep its diary. Then we discovered that things are happening all the time; the only problem is, to select and record what is significant, and to avoid the trivial and the commonplace.

The vacation period is a time of lying fallow. Too steady cultivation exhausts the soil; all work makes Jack a dull boy. Every one of us needs, once in so often, to draw a long breath, to relax and return to normal, as preparation for a fresh start. Equilibrium has its function in life, no less than progress; rest, taken rightly, is one of the most important forms of activity. Every member of the Library staff

needs to pause each year, to withdraw from his work, and to seek a new and truer perspective upon his life and its relations.

For our job is a life. Most of us expect to stick to it, as a career; and a career requires the concentration of all our faculties, if it is to be a success. The Informal Talks given in the Library, the past season, have emphasized this again and again, from many angles; nothing less than the whole man or woman will suffice, if we are to be librarians worthy of the name.

If the job is a life, it is equally true that our whole life is part of the job — vacation time no less than working time. When we are playing hardest, we are doing library work — for we are storing courage and energy, health and cheerfulness, for the strenuous days of next year. Exercise and sleep, conversation and recreation, all contribute to our effectiveness. Let us take our vacations seriously — but joyfully; no vacation is worth much as a means of refreshment unless one has a thoroughly good time. A good time — rest — new ideas — a broader vision — renewed physical strength; — these are the vacation wishes of LIBRARY LIFE to every employee of the Library.

NEWS ITEMS.

LIBRARY LIFE is happy to announce that the Mayor has re-appointed the Rev. Arthur T. Connolly as a Trustee of the Library, for the five-year period ending April 30, 1927.

A group of about twenty-five members of the Boston Chamber of Commerce visited the Library on the afternoon of May 4, and, after a greeting from Dr. Mann and Mr. Belden, were conducted about the building by members of the staff.

Congratulations to Miss Locke on her new detective story, "The Red Cavalier," just published by the Page Company, of which a review appears in this issue. This is the first book to be produced by a member of the Library staff since the birth of LIBRARY LIFE.

Mr. Ernest W. Chapin, President of the Special Libraries Association of Boston, has resigned his position as Librarian of the First National Bank, to become Assistant Librarian of the Municipal Reference Library, of New York City. He entered upon his new duties May 1.

In preparation for the meeting of the National Education Association, to be held in Boston early in July, there have been published in the *Journal* of the Association two articles by Mr. Chase: "The Boston Public Library," a description of the building, in the April number, and, in the May number, an annotated list entitled "Books for Visitors to Boston and New England."

On Thursday morning, May 8, Mr. Belden welcomed to the Central Library the noted women representatives of Latin America who came to the United States to attend the Pan-American Convention of Women in Baltimore. They were accompanied by members of the Boston League of Women Voters. After a brief address in the Trustees' Room he accompanied them on a tour of the building.

CATALOGUE NOTES.

The department has recently been checking up the New England Primers belonging to the Library, as a contribution to Mr. Charles F. Heartman's forthcoming bibliography of that famous little book.

Other colonial publications concerning which bibliographers are at present making active research are the Bay Psalm Book and the Cambridge Platform. In regard to the Psalm Book we are particularly fortunate, having two of the ten extant copies of the first edition (1640), but we still lack the first edition (1649) of the Cambridge Platform, that earliest authoritative statement of the government and doctrine of the Congregational churches of New England, prepared by the Cambridge Synod, in 1648. Would that some attic might yield a copy for us!

While the Quarterly Bulletin of March retains its character as a dictionary catalogue, a number of changes have been introduced for the convenience of readers who may wish to find in one place the full titles of recent works in a given subject.

Geographical headings now appear only as a sub-division under such subjects as Fine Arts, History, Literature, Science, etc. All works on Architecture, for example, are listed under that heading, the geographical divisions following the general works. Books of travel will be found under Travel and Description; books on political history under the two headings Political History (National), and Political History (International), the latter replacing the heading Foreign Relations hitherto used under countries. Brief titles under subjects are now given in place of a reference to the author only, and this also should prove to be a time-saving arrangement. The pageant list, by Miss Merrill, published in this number, is the first of a series of brief bibliographies on subjects of current interest.

"Ten-book lists," issued as supplements to the weekly lists of new books, have been published as follows:

No. 13. Trees: a list for Arbor Day, by John Murdoch.

No. 14. Baseball, by Frank C. Blaisdell.

No. 15. Books for Boy Scouts, by Miss Alice M. Jordan.

No. 16. Books for Camp Fire Girls and Girl Scouts, by Miss Alice M. Jordan.

The indexing of the Industrial Arts Index of January-February, 1922, is the work of Miss Marian I. Lord, formerly of the Catalogue Department. Miss Lord was one of the editors of the Index of 1920-21, and contributed to that volume a list of 292 American, Canadian, and international technical societies and conventions, with addresses of secretaries and dates of annual meetings.

EXHIBITIONS.

(Fine Arts Exhibition Room.)

BOSTON IN 1822.

The exhibit made by the Boston Public Library in commemoration of the centenary of the Boston City Charter has been limited, as far as possible, to documents and views of Boston in the second and third decades of the last century.

Students of local history will find interest in the facsimiles of documents concerning the incorporation of the city in 1822. With these are shown a number of curious original documents of this period, loaned by Mr. Charles E. Goodspeed.

Several early nineteenth-century views of Boston in original water-color paintings of rare aquatint prints have been brought up from the Librarian's Office. There is an interesting series of chromolithographs by John Rubens Smith, showing the summit of Beacon Hill in process of removal. The original water-color sketches for these prints may be seen in one of the glass cases.

The series of views of old Boston School houses in water-color sketches by an unknown artist are a recent acquisition.

The photographs show, for the most part, buildings erected between 1810 and 1820 and now destroyed. The dignified "Post-Colonial" architecture of this period will bear comparison with anything Boston has done before or since. One should note, besides the State House, other buildings by Charles Bulfinch, especially the old Cathedral and the house at 85 Mt. Vernon Street. Contemporary is also the charming steeple of the Park Street Church, by Peter Banner, after Sir Christopher Wren.

The Boston exhibit will be continued throughout the summer. Its character will be presently changed from that of a special centenary to a more general collection of old Bostoniana, since it is believed that the latter will offer more of interest to the summer tourist.

W. H. C.

GRANT.

The one-hundredth anniversary of the birth of General Ulysses S. Grant, April 27, 1922, was commemorated by the Library with an exhibition of books and prints relating to his life and public services. There were displayed many editions of his letters, speeches, and memoirs; various biographies; political cartoons; scrapbooks of press reports of his death, with reviews of his career; maps and bird's eye views of his campaigns; an engraving of the surrender of General Lee; photographs of Grant's birthplace at Point Pleasant, Ohio, and of a number of monuments, including the tomb at Riverside Park, New York.

An interesting collection of autograph letters, quaint old-style photographs of the General and his family, and his original commission as Major-General of Volunteers, signed by Lincoln, were shown through the courtesy of Jesse Grant Cramer, Assistant Professor in French in Boston University. Professor Cramer is a son of Dr. M. J. Cramer, former United States Minister to Denmark and Switzerland, and of Mary Grant Cramer, youngest sister of General Grant.

HALE.

The Edward Everett Hale centenary exhibition consisted of editions of his works, a few autograph letters, and a number of portraits, including one in pencil drawn and lent by his son, Philip L. Hale.

POSTERS BY CHILDREN.

For the week of March 13-20 there were placed on view 44 colored posters designed by children in the high schools of Boston for the Junior Red Cross. A number were marked with gold labels, indicating prize-winners, but every one was interesting, and all showed both imagination and artistic skill.

During the week of April 24-30, posters giving original ideas on the humane treatment of animals were exhibited under the auspices of the Massachusetts Society for the Preven-

tion of Cruelty to Animals. This was the fourth annual Prize Poster Contest for children of the high and grammar grades, and formed part of the eighth national observances of Be Kind to Animals Week, and Humane Sunday. Nearly 300 posters were entered, in various media: pencil, cut-out paper, charcoal, pen and ink, crayon, and water-color; and by all accounts there is no dearth of life, "voltage" or technique in the pictorial art of the rising generation. The prize-winning posters will be sent to the American Humane Association, Albany, to compete for additional prizes offered in a national contest. An account of the exhibition will be printed in *Our Dumb Animals* for June.

MISS BARBARA DUNCAN.

Miss Barbara Duncan, who has been for fourteen years in charge of the Brown Music Library, has given up her work to become librarian of the Sibley Musical Library of Rochester, New York. This library, which was given to the University of Rochester by Mr. Hiram W. Sibley, now contains nearly 9,000 volumes of music and musical literature, and is being steadily increased; three important private collections, including the library of Mr. George G. Sonneck of Washington, have recently been added to it. The Sibley library is peculiar in the fact that although it belongs to the University and will be used in connection with the work of the great Eastman School of Music, which has just opened its splendid new building, it is intended for the free use of the public, who have the same rights in drawing books as those enjoyed by the students of the School.

The library, which is the largest one in its field belonging to any educational institution, is finely housed in a series of rooms in the building of the Eastman School; its reading room has seats for one hundred, and its stacks are planned for 45,000 volumes; these figures indicate the generous purpose of its founders, Mr. Sibley and Mr. George Eastman of the Eastman

Kodak Company, and the School and its library will go far toward making Rochester one of the leading centers of musical influence in America.

Miss Duncan, who assumes her new duties as librarian on June 1, will have full responsibility for the collection, with entire charge of buying the books; her first great task will be the classification of the present library, which has thus far been only roughly catalogued. She will visit New York and Washington on her way to Rochester for the purpose of supplementing her knowledge of the music collection in Boston by a study of the arrangement of the musical departments of the New York Public Library and the Library of Congress.

The best wishes of LIBRARY LIFE and of her associates in the staff of the Boston Public Library go with Miss Duncan to her new position.

"Technology Classification for the Technology Division of the Boston Public Library," first printed in December, 1918, and revised in March, 1922, by George S. Maynard, chief of the Division, has just appeared in a pamphlet of twenty-six pages.

The grouping follows in general that of the Library of Congress; but our own numbers, allotted for mechanic arts in 1858, have been expanded so as to cover the growing field of modern technology. The index has been made in some detail.

Of interest in this connection are the other printed classifications (without indexes) issued by the Library for the Branches (January, 1896) and for the Vocational Information Service (March, 1921); and it is pertinent to say that the rapid service of the Library of Congress is ascribed in large part to its efficient classification (Sayers, Canons of classification).

It is the experience of all libraries that nothing so simplifies the all-important problem of bringing the reader to the right material on any desired subject as adequate classification of the books on the shelves. The Technology Classification has proved its worth in increased efficiency and economy of service.

With the Juniors

Edited by Francis P. Znotas

IMPORTANT.

When you leave library work for all summer, to seek other employment, you do so with the understanding that on returning in the fall (if you are taken back) you start all over again in the lowest positions. By leaving the Library, you forfeit the benefit of experience and service. Remember this!

No one is allowed to take books from a stack to another part of the Library without leaving a proper record for them.

Quite frequently, while taking a book off a shelf in the stacks, one pulls a second book to the floor. Replace the volume in its proper position rather than leave it on the floor. Do the same when you see a book which someone else has dropped.

Never "pass the buck!"

The lunch-room meetings held on the first Monday and second Tuesday of each month will continue during the summer. Don't fail to attend!

RARE ACCIDENTS.

Attendant at book-case in Delivery Room, after leaving four pencils on counter for use of public, finds five at the end of a perfect day.

Reader smiles and says, "Thank you," when you present him with a crossed slip.

QUERIES FROM VISITORS.

(Pointing to Chamberlain Collection of autographs.) Who wrote those?

Is the room where the food exhibit is held called the Children's Room?

Doesn't this book come in smaller sizes?

Who wrote Addison's Essays?

Can I start a card here?

NEWSETTES.

Saturday, April 15, was an extremely unfortunate day for one of our members. While courageously defending second base during an exciting game of baseball, Monsour Laham, of the Ordering Department and Evening Force, accidentally had a ligament of his leg torn, as the doctor declared. At the luckless moment he was making a valiant attempt to stop a threatening base-runner. As usual, the messengers of Dame Rumor broadcasted (not by radio) some exaggerated reports, among which were the following: "He broke his leg," "His ankle was sprained," "Monsour's leg was fractured."

Just when all seemed going splendidly with Monsour, his friends were surprised and shocked to hear that after two weeks of treatment for a torn ligament, it was discovered that his ankle was broken, after all. We are glad to say that he will be able to keep on the job, and we hope that he will presently be back among us, stronger than ever.

The baseball players are now performing in true mid-season form. The thrilling and speedy games are closely contested, the differences in scores between winners and losers being sometimes as low as five. We are glad to see William O'Hara with us again.

The following junior employees of the Library have completed courses in the Evening High School; the first four young ladies are employed in the Central Library: Santa M. Costa, English III; Eleanor S. Schlafer, English III, English literature; Alice F. Smithers, Commercial arithmetic, Typewriting II; Pearl Yerkes, English literature; Catherine A. Galvin (S. E. Branch), Typewriting II.

Posters by young people are reviewed on another page.

Our Neighbor Libraries

ADVENTURES IN THE LANDSCAPE LIBRARY.

If there is one thing the landscape librarian can do, it is to produce bibliographies. The Library of the Harvard School of Landscape Architecture is the recognized national source of city-planning information, and in consequence our correspondence-file folder, "Information Service Rendered," steadily grows to alarming fatness. Requests for help range from the preparation of a bibliography for a city-planning book in press to the encouragement of the ambitious mother of two small children, who has a craving for more knowledge about gardening. From a small town came a purple-inked letter asking for "a list of books suitable for reading and study this winter covering landscape, botany, horticulture, forestry, and allied and kindred subjects" (that last phase gave us leeway at least); it was inscribed at the end, "stamped envelope enclosed. Thanks in advance. The more you advise, the more thanks."

In compiling these bibliographies, there are indeed more ways than I either learned of or imagined in my student days. For example, there is the paper-clip method, which fascinates me. Armed with at least two sizes of clips, the Librarian assails the catalogue, adjusting said clips in several purposeful attitudes: little ones at left, little ones at right; big ones at left, big ones at right; and so on. A point of judgment will soon lead to a distinction, whereby some of these clips will be either pushed flush to the card edges or left rising a half-inch above. Having by these few motions given a picturesque effect to several drawers, all the Librarian has to do is to sit down and write a fool-proof guide to her system of clips, and pass the job on to the assistant.

Again, there is the patchwork variety of compilation. This involves the slicing of several typed or printed lists already in existence and proved worthy, the selection and scribbling or typing of new references (scribbling heightens the general effect), and by means of pins or paste assembling the

fragments into a harmonious whole. I recommend pins myself—they are better adapted to sudden changes of opinion on the part of the compiler.

These are, of course, merely secrets of compilation methods; you may be sure our bibliographies leave Robinson Hall, each one "the glass of fashion and the mold of form." There are times when the final result arrives in one fell swoop, as in the case of the zoning bibliography which was supplied to Secretary Hoover's Subcommittee on Zoning, U. S. Division of Building and Housing. With telegraphed authority from Miss Kimball in Washington it was merely necessary for me to storm Simmons College for a couple of practice girls, set them down before the catalogue drawer, "Zoning," with a supply of form-cards and instructions to duplicate, and stop them at intervals to draw deep breaths and wiggle their cramped fingers.

Speaking of zoning, it may not be generally known, but "Zoning has taken the country by storm," as Miss Kimball puts it in a recent article on city-planning progress. Every well-regulated city must now be properly zoned, so that all may shout "No" to Herbert Swan's bold question, "Does your city keep its gas range in the parlor and its piano in the kitchen?" I have recently been proofreading several digests of zoning ordinances, and my decision is that they are a lot like the Decalogue, with an implied "Thou shalt" and a quantity of powerfully expressed "Thou shalt not's." I could easily convince you of the perils of zonelessness by citing harrowing tales of evils in residence districts, ranging from billboards up through dog pounds and on to mule corrals.

To return to bibliographies. The scope of a proposed list bothers us little; we are ready to supply references on the whole field, on a special phase, or even a phase of a phase. Of course I cannot speak for Miss Kimball, but I do assure you that my bibliographical courage is quite equal to attempting anything from "the cultivation of palm trees and tea roses above the arctic circle" to "a major traffic street plan for the Sahara Desert."

M. R. B.

Library Organizations

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The Association welcomes as new members Miss Helen M. Burke (Issue Department) and Miss Mary J. Doherty (Branch Department).

Miss Maud M. Morse, of the Branch Department, was elected chairman of the Relief Committee on April 25. She reports the absence of the following members, on account of illness: Patrick Kennedy (Janitor Force), and William O'Hara (Ordering Department), since April 17; John Murdoch (Catalogue Department), April 26 - May 14; William A. Wendell (Bindery), May 1-14; Miss Mary Murphy (Bindery), since April 28; Miss Jeannette Shutt (South Boston Branch), since April 21.

The Committee in charge of the celebration of the Twentieth Anniversary of the Association has decided to hold a banquet, including addresses and music, in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library, on Thursday evening, May 25th. A large majority of the members have signified their intention to be present, and a good time is assured. The occasion is entirely informal. Tickets, \$1.50, may be procured from chiefs of departments.

The Pension Committee reports that the Pension Bill has passed the third reading in the House and bids fair to pass both Houses and reach the Governor for his signature.

STAFF CLUB.

Music was the feature of the programme at the meeting of April 26 in the Staff Lecture Room of the Library, the last session but one of the Club for the present season. The meeting was in charge of Miss Duncan, assisted by Miss Coolidge and Miss Margaret Calnan.

Mr. and Mrs. Gideon, already well known to Library audiences, brought with them Mrs. Marjorie Patten Weaver, cellist. Together they played and sang typical folk-songs of many nations ranging from Yiddish to fifteenth century French, from Ireland and Russia to the southern United States.

A nominating committee was elected, whose report follows:

For President, Miss Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children.
For Vice-President, Miss Marion W. Brackett, Librarian, Brighton Branch.

For Secretary, Miss Marion A. McCarthy, Branch Department.

For Treasurer, Miss Mary A. Reynolds, Issue Department.

Executive Committee, Miss Edith Guerrier, Supervisor of Circulation; Miss Mary F. Curley, Librarian, North End Branch.

Signed, M. Florence Cufflin, Librarian, South Boston Branch, chairman; Anna L. Manning, Children's Room; Lucien E. Taylor, Catalogue Room.

THE SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The annual meeting is to be held in the Town Room on May 22. Supper will be served, and the regular business meeting will be held. The election of officers is to take place, and the adoption of a new constitution will be discussed. Later the members will join in a frolic which has been arranged for them.

Mr. Chase addressed the Rhode Island Library Association at its annual meeting, May 5, on the subject, "Getting Together in Library Life."

The engagement of Miss Florence May Bethune, Librarian of the West End Branch, to Mr. Chester Lowell Sloan, has just been announced.

The Miss Kimball referred to in Miss Bradbury's breezy article on bibliography, is Miss Theodora Kimball, who was a member of the Catalogue Department of the Boston Public Library from 1909 to 1911.

Sophy Phillips Church, formerly of the Catalogue Room (Mrs. Joseph Church of South Hanover), is the mother of twin daughters, born in April.

News Notes

on

Government Publications

Edited by Edith Guerrier

Bulletin No. 25

May 15, 1922

Supplement to "Library Life," Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

PLANT A GARDEN.

More than 4,000 years before Departments of Agriculture existed as such, according to the Holy Scriptures, "God said, Let the earth bring forth grass, the herb yielding seed, and the fruit tree yielding fruit after his kind, whose seed is in itself, upon the earth; and it was so." Man's first dwelling place upon the earth was a garden: "And the Lord God planted a garden eastward in Eden; and there he put the man whom he had formed. And out of the ground made the Lord God to grow every tree that is pleasant to the sight and good for food." Here was a garden which flourished under perfect conditions, but not by the wildest stretch of the imagination can any garden in Massachusetts be said to flourish "under perfect conditions." Yet "in the sweat of one's face" and with the help of a one-foot shelf of Department of Agriculture bulletins, any one may achieve a charming garden.

City-dwellers must necessarily do their gardening on a small scale, but some of the back-yard farmers should have in their hands the more advanced and technical publications, issued by the Department, in order that they may realize that farming is a real business, in which one does not succeed by hit-or-miss methods, but by scientific study of the many and varied problems of food production and distribution.

Many users of our public libraries have at the back of their minds a picture of a little white house with a broad veranda, removed from the dusty road by a stretch of level lawn bisected by a box-bordered path. The thought of such a home may easily come uppermost when the daily business round according to the clock becomes a grind instead of a pleasure; and yet the notion of "retirement," to the person who has been busily occupied from eight until five during long years, does not include sitting in a hammock or having breakfast in bed, it usually does include raising chickens or carnations, or making currant jelly.

Now the Department bulletins treat of poultry exhaustively; and jelly-making and hot-house culture are not forgotten. In short, every phase of real and amateur farm

life in Massachusetts is described and analyzed. The Information Office maintains a file of the available publications, and for the benefit of the seeker after agricultural information, a subject list of the particularly useful bulletins issued since 1916 is printed below. A few of these are described in detail:

The Organization and Work of the Department of Agriculture. 1921. Dept.Bull.36

The present organization of the Department consists of a Commissioner, an Advisory Board under the Commissioner, and the following divisions. This pamphlet describes fully the scope of each division.

Division of Dairying and Animal Husbandry.

- Dairy law enforcement.
- Inspection of creameries.
- Encouragement of dairying.
- Breeding.
- Feeding.
- Cow testing.
- Demonstration.
- Sheep farms.

Division of Information.

- Publicity statistics publications.
- Farmers' institutes.
- Employment Bureau.
- Office arrangements.
- General correspondence.

Division of Markets.

- Market reporting.
- Standardization of grades and containers.
- Cost of distribution.
- Storage of supplies.
- Transportation.
- City and farmers' markets.
- Cooperative organization.

Division of Ornithology.

- Study of habits, food, migration, and utility of native land and water birds.
- Circulation of information.
- Preparation of publications.

Division of Plant Pest Control.

- Inspection of nurseries and nursery stock.
- Quarantine enforcement.
- Pest control.
- Apiary inspection.
- Blister rust and corn borer control in cooperation with the federal Department of Agriculture.

Division of Reclamation, Soil Survey, and
Fairs.
Drainage and improvement of wet lands.
Soil survey in cooperation with the federal
Department of Agriculture.
Agricultural fairs, exhibits, prizes.

List of Useful Books on Agriculture. 1921.
Dept.Bull.39

*Directory of the Agricultural and Similar
Organizations of Massachusetts.* 1921.
Dept.Bull.35

Contains lists of agricultural organiza-
tions under the following headings:
Massachusetts Agricultural College.
Agricultural and horticultural societies.
Agricultural schools.
Beekeepers' societies and associations.
Farm bureaus.
Trustees for county aid to agriculture.
Farmers' and mechanics' clubs and as-
sociations.
Farmers' cooperative exchanges.
Fruit growers' organizations.
Milk, dairy, and creamery associations.
Live stock associations.
Poultry associations.
Miscellaneous associations, such as Bos-
ton Market Gardeners' Association,
Worcester County Harvest Club, etc.

Agricultural Legislation. 1921. Bull.423

Contains the much sought after "Daylight
Saving Act," the "Standard Box Act," and
the "Marking and Sealing of Milk Cans
Act."

*Agricultural Statistics for Massachusetts and
New England.* 1921. Dept.Bull.41

Contains 89 pages of statistics on crops,
live stock, farm property, farm acreage and
value, as well as statistics of urban and
rural population.

Massachusetts Farms for Sale. 1921.
Dept.Bull.40

Contains brief descriptions of the coun-
ties of Massachusetts, followed by a list of
108 farms arranged alphabetically by coun-
ties and towns. A sample description reads
as follows:

"B-17. Farm of 60 acres, located 4½
to 5 miles from Pittsfield station on Bos-
ton and Albany Railroad. Nearest mar-
kets, 2½ to 4½ miles, supplying a popu-
lation of 50,000. Children taken 3 miles
to school by school barge at expense of
city; church, 2 miles. Roads nearly all
macadam and good.

"Land good. Adapted to raising of
grass and vegetables. Acres tillable, 40;
in pasture, 5; in woodland and lowland,
10 to 15. Fifty apple and 6 pear trees.
Finest water in pasture, which is also
good trout stream. Farm on fairly high
ground, with beautiful mountain and lake
views. Fine shade trees. Near sawmill
and pond. Across the road from a \$250,-
000 estate and adjoins another similar
place.

"Eleven-room house. Two barns; one,
30 × 69; the other, 40 × 40. Henhouse

and piggery combined. Well water and
windmill. Buildings in good condition,
but need paint.

"Price, \$8,000. Reason for selling, to
settle estate."

ALPHABETIC SUBJECT LIST.

ABBREVIATIONS.

B. = Bulletin.
D.B. = Department Bulletin.
D.C. = Department Circular.
M.A.S. = Massachusetts Agricultural Series.
N.L. = Nature Leaflet.
S.B.C. = State Board Circular.

Accounting.
Diversified farm accounting. S.B.C.29
Household accounting. S.B.C.34
Practical system of farm bookkeeping. S.B.C.39

Advertising agricultural products. S.B.C.66
Agriculture. Business organization as re-
lated to agriculture. S.B.C.72

Alfalfa conditions in New England. S.B.C.60
Alfalfa for New England. S.B.C.35
Alfalfa growing. S.B.C.24

Animals.
Beef production in New England. S.B.C.32
Improvement of livestock. S.B.C.63

Apples.
Apple grading and packing. S.B.C.50; D.S.50
Apple grading laws. D.C.23

Apple packing for Mass. growers. S.B.C.4
Massachusetts apple packing. M.A.S.2
Orcharding. [Apple storage.] M.A.S.2

Arbor and Bird Day. Misc.1
Banking. Work of the Federal Land Bank. S.B.C.77

Bees. Essentials of beekeeping. Apiary Inspection Bull. 14
First principles of bee-keeping. N.L.34

Berries. See also names of berries, as,
Blackberries. B.4
Small fruits and berries. B.4

Bibliography. List of useful books on agri-
culture. D.B.39

Birds.
Arbor and Bird Day. Misc.1
Bird houses. N.L.15
Bird houses and nesting boxes, etc. D.C.10; S.B.C.47

The English sparrow. D.B.6
English sparrow and means of controlling
it. D.C.4; S.B.C.48

Food, feeding and drinking appliances and
nesting material to attract birds. D.B.2
Food plants to attract birds and protect
fruit. S.B.C.49

Hints for outdoor bird study. N.L.22,23,24,25

Our friend the chickadee. N.L.16
Outdoor bird study. D.B.1; D.C.12

Owl friends. N.L.14
Plants that attract and shelter birds and
some that protect cultivated fruit. D.C.13

The starling. S.B.C.45
Two years with birds on a farm. B.4
The utility of birds. D.B.9

- Blackberries. Raspberry and blackberry growing in Mass. D.C.18
 Budding. Orcharding. M.A.S.2
 Canning in glass in the home. S.B.C.55
 Cantaloupe growing in Mass. S.B.C.15
 Chickens. See Poultry.
 Cooperation. S.B.C.28
 Cooperation among Mass. fruit growers. D.B.26
 Cooperation in fruit growing as practiced in Nova Scotia. S.B.C.40
 Cooperative dairying. S.B.C.69
 Corn. Significance of a kernel of corn. S.B.C.80
 Cranberry growing. S.B.C.41
 Credits.
 Rural credits. S.B.C.59
 Rural credit banking and agricultural co-operation in Europe. S.B.C.23
 Short time credit for farmers. S.B.C.78
 Currants. Culture of the currant. S.B.C.14
 Department of Agriculture. Organization and work of the Department of Agriculture. D.B.36
 Dairy.
 Balanced rations for dairy stock. S.B.C.3
 Breeding and feeding dairy cattle. S.B.C.21
 Care of milk in the home. N.L.40
 Clean milk contest. S.B.C.13
 Cooperative dairying. S.B.C.69
 Cost of milk production. S.B.C.8
 Dairy industry in Denmark. S.B.C.7
 Dairy laws. D.B.38
 Dairy statistics. D.B.43
 Encouragement of clean milk production. S.B.C.38
 Factors affecting economical milk production. S.B.C.36
 Food value of milk. S.B.C.1
 Grading of milk as a substitute for dairy inspection. S.B.C.61
 Marketing milk and cream. S.B.C.70
 Milk inspection from the producers point of view. S.B.C.57
 Milk, its character and value as food. N.L.39
 Pasteurization of market milk. S.B.C.68
 Protection of Mass. dairies from flies. S.B.C.10
 Some bacteriological aspects of clean milk inspection. S.B.C.11
 What it costs to produce milk in New England. S.B.C.9
 What organization has done for the milk business. S.B.C.79
 Diseases. See also Insect pests.
 Apple scab. N.L.48
 Black-knot of plumb and cherry. N.L.3
 Orcharding. M.A.S.2
 Peach leaf curl. N.L.13
 Potato rot. N.L.21
 Potato scab. N.L.7
 Quince rust. N.L.11
 Domestic science teaching in rural districts. S.B.C.62
 Eggs. See Poultry.
 Exporting. Fruit market possibilities in the export trade. D.C.7
 Farms.
 Farm management. S.B.C.20;56
 Mass. farms for sale. With brief description. D.B.40
 Relation of the railroad to the farmer. S.B.C.82
 Standardization of farm products. S.B.C.54
 Utilization of surplus farm products. S.B.C.58
 Value of experimental work for truck farmers. S.B.C.37
 Fertilizers. See also Soil.
 How to buy fertilizers. S.B.C.25
 Orchard, berry and vegetable fertilizers. D.C.11
 Fruit. See also names of fruits: as, Apples; Berries, etc.
 Factors affecting hardness in fruit. D.C.35
 Fruit growing for profit. D.C.21
 Oxford Pears Fruit Growers Association. S.B.C.71
 Value of a market news service to farmers and fruit growers. S.B.C.76
 Game. Farmers interest in game preserves. D.C.25; S.B.C.31
 Grafting. Orcharding. M.A.S.3
 Root and cleft grafting. N.L.44
 Grain. See Corn.
 Grapes. Pruning the grape. S.B.C.16
 Hens. See Poultry.
 Honey. Importance of honey production. S.B.C.81
 Hot beds. N.L.36
 Ice. Farm ice houses. S.B.C.30
 Insect pests.
 The army worm. S.B.C.22
 Brown-tail moth. N.L.26
 Canker worms. N.L.1
 European elm leaf beetle. N.L.41
 Gypsy moth. N.L.27
 Insect enemies of vegetable garden crops. D.B.31
 Insects injuring lawns. N.L.8
 The leopard moth. N.L.43
 Orcharding. M.A.S.2
 Plant lice or aphids. N.L.18
 Spiny elm caterpillar. N.L.6
 The tent caterpillar. S.B.C.46
 Three common scale insects. S.B.C.6
 Three onion scale insects. N.L.33
 The white marked tressock moths. N.L.5
 Insecticides and fungicides, directions for their use. S.B.C.2
 Insects of Mass. S.B.C.3
 Insects, Apple. Orcharding. M.A.S.3
 Labor. Efficient management of labor on the farm. D.C.8
 Landscape gardening. How to beautify the home grounds. N.L.46
 Legislation, Agricultural. D.B.42
 Market gardening. S.B.C.67
 Markets. Public markets in Mass. S.B.C.84
 Milk. See Dairy.
 Nurseries. Digest of laws governing shipments of nursery stock. D.B.37
 Nut culture. S.B.C.26
 Onion growing in Connecticut River Valley. S.B.C.52
 Orchards. See also Apples.
 The new orchard. S.B.C.19
 Orcharding. M.A.S.2

- Organizations. Agricultural and similar organizations of Mass. D.B.35
- Peaches.
Modern developments in peach growing. D.C.22
- Orcharding. M.A.S.2
- Planting. How to plant. N.L.38
- Poison ivy. N.L.9
- Pork packing for Mass. farmers. S.B.C.5
- Potatoes. Potato growing in Mass. S.B.C.73
- Poultry. D.C.1
Back yard poultry keeping. D.B.11
Breeding and selection of fowls for egg production. S.B.C.64
Poultry and egg production. S.B.C.53
Poultry culture. B.2
Profitable farm poultry, with special references to eggs and meat. S.B.C.33
Poultry feeds and methods of feeding. S.B.C.17
- Preserving. See Canning.
- Pruning. Orcharding. M.A.S.2
- Quince culture. D.B.27
- Raspberries.
Raspberry growing in Mass. D.B.2
Raspberry and blackberry growing in Mass. D.C.18
- Reports. The annual report of the Commissioner contains the annual reports of the following divisions: Division of Plant Pest Control; Division of Ornithology; State Inspector of Apiaries, and Report of plan and expenses of Boys and Girls Club Work.
- School gardens.
Crops for the school garden. N.L.31
Planting and care of school gardens. N.L.30
- Results of school gardening. N.L.32
- School gardens. N.L.29
- Sewage disposal in rural districts. S.B.C.44
- Soil. Maintenance of soil fertility. S.B.C.65
- Spraying.
Bordeaux mixture. N.L.17
Spraying mixtures for insect and plant diseases. N.L.4
- Statistics. Agricultural statistics for Mass. and N. E. D.B.41
- Storage. Common storage of fruits and vegetables. S.B.C.75
- Storage, Apple. Orcharding. M.A.S.2
- Toad. The garden toad. N.L.28
- Tobacco growing in Connecticut River Valley. S.B.C.51
- Trees. Planting and care of trees. N.L.45
See also Arbor and Bird Day.
- Turkeys.
Practical suggestions for raising turkeys. D.B.15
- Turkey raising. D.C.5
- Vegetables. See also names of vegetables: as, Onions; Potatoes.
The home vegetable garden. D.B.29; S.B.C.42
- Soy beans as human food. B.182
- Vegetable growing. B.5
- Water.
Farm water supplies. S.B.C.18
Sanitary side of farm water supplies. S.B.C.43
- Weeds.
Destruction of weeds by chemical treatment. N.L.47
Edible weeds and pot herbs. N.L.19
Massachusetts weeds. N.L.20

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume II, No. 1

October 15, 1922

CONTENTS.

LIBRARY NEWS	1	PERSONAL ITEMS	3
EDITORIALS	2	LIBRARY ORGANIZATIONS	4

LIBRARY NEWS.

Six of the junior assistants, who had attended all the Informal Talks given last spring, submitted essays in competition for the final prizes. The first of these prizes, \$15 in cash, was won by Miss Mary M. McDonough, of the Ordering Department; the second prize, of \$10, was awarded to Miss Edith von Schoppe, of Bates Hall; and the paper written by Miss Mary V. Wall, of the South Boston Branch, received honorable mention.

The staff of the Library will be glad to learn that the Librarian has appointed a committee, with Mr. Fleischer as chairman, to arrange further courses of instruction for assistants, in continuance of those given last year. An announcement will be made soon.

A rich and varied exhibition of Abolition memorials and achievements of the American Negro, arranged as a tribute to the memory of the late Miss Maria L. Baldwin, is now on view in the Fine Arts Exhibition Room. No one should miss this very unusual display, which is a revelation of what our colored fellow-citizens have been accomplishing since the Civil War.

At the annual meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club, held at North Scituate in June, Mr. Chase, who addressed the Club on the subject "How to make leisure-hour reading count," was elected one of its vice-presidents. Miss Jordan, who was vice-president last year, presided at one of the sessions of the meeting.

The fall meeting of the Club will be held at Greenfield October 19-21.

Two ingenious stories by Miss Ida W. Gould, of the Catalogue Department, entitled "Mrs. Tompkins' system" and "The hired man," were published in the *Boston Post* for May 31 and October 11, respectively.

Bessie London Pouzzner, formerly of the Catalogue Department (Mrs. Benjamin S. Pouzzner, of Lowell), has a son, born on the sixteenth of June.

On September 1 Mr. Patrick Kennedy, of the Engineers' Department, returned to work after an illness of over four months. While physically "Parker" is not yet fully his own self, his genial personality and sunny smile are more in evidence than ever. We are all glad to have him back once more.

Miss Edith Gustafson, of the Warren Street Branch, has resigned her position, to become Supervisor of Drawing and Manual Training in the public schools of Great Barrington, Mass. Miss Gustafson, who is a graduate of the Massachusetts Normal Art School, is sure of success in her new field.

Mr. William H. J. Kennedy, formerly employed in the Fine Arts Department, has recently been appointed Dean of the Boston Normal School. Since leaving the Library he has been head of the history department at the Boston Latin School.

Does the staff want a Bowling League this winter?

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. II, No. 1.

October 15, 1922

A NEW YEAR.

After five months' breathing-time, LIBRARY LIFE comes eagerly to the tape, ready for its second year's race. But fate, in the shape of two linotypes idle because of the illness of their operators, commands reduced speed for the moment, and our paper comes out with only four pages. The editor's drawer is crammed with material; the minds of the staff teem with ideas; but these must all wait. With peculiar depth of emotion, we wish Mr. Aker and Miss Bovle a prompt recovery!

The paper hopes and plans to be better this year than last: *More life and no less Library* is to be its slogan for the year. As a means to this end, it has added to its staff half a dozen new reporters, the results of whose assistance will presently be manifest.

LIBRARY LIFE has proved its vitality by living; it has received agreeable compliments from many quarters; its purpose this year will be to widen its usefulness and deepen its appeal to every member of the Library staff.

LIBRARY LIFE is happy to announce the following additions to its editorial staff: Miss Mary M. McDonough, Miss Mary E. Prim, Miss Minna Steinberg, Miss Harriet Swift, Mr. William F. A. Graham, and Mr. Harry W. Mathews.

FAITHFUL.

"Thou hast been faithful over a few things, I will make thee ruler over many things."

In 1898, Langdon Ward, who for two years had been connected with the

Boston Public Library as custodian of the Broadway Extension Delivery Station, was selected to be Supervisor of Branches. For the ensuing twenty-four years he was to show the same loyalty and devotion in the larger sphere which he had displayed in the restricted one. It was a matter of character.

We all miss him, every man and woman in the Library system — this simple, honest man, who sought nothing for himself, whom everyone trusted. He loved righteousness and peace, he desired only to serve.

Mr. Ward came to his position with a vision, that of a system of well-equipped branch libraries as a great instrument of service to all the people of Boston. For nearly a quarter-century he labored without rest to realize this vision; and every year marked progress toward his ideal. But his work never lacked the human touch; all who served with him knew him as a friend.

Of Langdon Ward, if of any member of the Library staff, it may be said, now that the tireless worker has gone to rest, "Well done, good and faithful servant!"

LIBRARY LIFE has in hand a sketch of Mr. Ward, written by Mr. Wheeler, which will be printed in the next issue. In the meantime, every member of the staff should read the admirably just and sympathetic account of the man and his work, which appears in the *Bulletin of the Library* for September 30.

PENSIONS.

The hope long and dimly cherished has become a fact. The pension system, which we have all recognized as a crying need of the Library, has been created by law, and will become effective in a few months. For this achievement the employees of the Library are indebted in no small measure to the enterprise and ability of their Committee on Pensions, especially to the vigor and resource of its chairman, Mr. James W. Kenney.

LIBRARY LIFE expected to include in the present issue a detailed exposition

of the workings of the new system, which Mr. Kenney has kindly written; but four pages will not hold everything, and this must be postponed to a later date. For the present, then, we must be content with an expression of hearty congratulation and gratitude for this important civic step forward, first to His Honor the Mayor and the City Council, and then to Mr. Kenney and his wide-awake committee.

On Monday, May 29, Mr. Samuel Carr, vice-president of the Board of Trustees of the Library, passed away after a lingering illness. The Mayor has appointed Mr. Guy W. Currier to the vacancy caused by Mr. Carr's death. In its next issue *LIBRARY LIFE* expects to publish an appreciation of Mr. Carr and his important services to the Library, from the pen of Mr. Horace G. Wadlin, and a sketch of the new Trustee, whom we are glad to welcome to the Board.

LIBRARY LIFE welcomes to the Music Room Mr. Richard G. Appel, who has been temporarily appointed Custodian, in Miss Duncan's place. Mr. Appel is a Master of Arts of Harvard University, where he won the Boott Prize for vocal composition in 1912. For the past twelve years he has been organist, choirmaster, and instructor in church music at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, and for six years instructor in music at the Brown and Nichols School. Mr. Appel is a thorough musician, who brings to the Music Division of the Library an unusual equipment for useful service.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

James P. Gannon, of the Bindery, was the first member of the Library staff this season to embark on the sea of matrimony. On June 4 he married Miss Elizabeth F. Kenney, of Brighton. *LIBRARY LIFE* extends to Mr. and Mrs. Gannon its heartiest congratulations and best wishes.

On Sunday, June 25, Miss Marie J. Gross, of the Registration Department,

was married to James S. Kennedy, of the Shelf Department, by Father Poulman, S.J., at the Church of the Holy Trinity, Shawmut Avenue. The bridesmaid was the groom's sister, Mary, and the best man was the bride's brother, William.

On their wedding journey the young couple visited Niagara Falls, by way of New York City and the Hudson River, and spent a few days in the Berkshires.

They reside at 10 Cottage Park, Dorchester, where they will be pleased to receive their friends. Since her marriage, Mrs. Kennedy has been operated on for appendicitis, but is now well on the road to recovery.

LIBRARY LIFE is pleased to announce the engagement of Miss Alice M. Barry, of the Registration Department, to Mr. William A. McGowan, of the Shelf Department.

The engagement is also announced of Miss Jennie E. Sartelle, of the Auditor's office, and Mr. Roy Newcomb, of Brockton. At present, Mr. Newcomb is in business with his father. The date of the wedding is not far distant.

On September 1, a daughter, Anna Elizabeth, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Robert Dixon. This is our shipper's fifth child, and brings his family to the same size as that of Mr. William Mul-loney of the Centre Desk.

On June 26, Annie Agnes, the ten-months-old daughter of William Hickey, of the Engineers' Department, won second prize at the Brighton Baby Show. Among the 160 babies entered Miss Anna was the leading lady; the first prize went to a gentleman.

The staff extends its sympathy to Miss May Crosby, of the Catalogue Department, whose mother, Mrs. Elizabeth Crosby, died on September 15, after a long illness. The funeral services were held on Tuesday, September 19, at Saint Columbkille's Church, Brighton.

Library Organizations

STAFF CLUB.

At the annual meeting of the Staff Club in May, the following officers were elected: President, Alice M. Jordan; Vice-President, Marian W. Brackett; Secretary, Marion A. McCarthy; Treasurer, Mary A. Reynolds; members of the Executive Committee, Mary F. Curley, Edith Guerrier.

There was a large and interested response in answer to the letter sent to Club members by the Executive Committee in June, for the purpose of ascertaining what special activities the Club wishes to undertake. One hundred and twenty replies out of a possible one hundred and forty were received, the subjects checked being as follows: Current events, 79; Music, 68; Book reviews, 62; Dramatics, 48; Coöperative buying, 40; Dancing, 27; Writing, 19.

Committees have been appointed to consider the best way of conducting these activities, and reports of these committees will be given at the first fall meeting, October 24th.

There will also be submitted at this meeting, for action by the Club, an amendment to the Constitution whereby everyone in the regular day force of the Library is made eligible for club membership.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The regular meeting of the Benefit Association was held in the Lecture Hall on October 3, at 5.15 p.m. The various committees made progressive reports. A rising vote of thanks was extended to the Committee on Pensions for the work that they have accomplished so far. Mr. John J. O'Brien, of the Bindery, was elected to the entertainment committee to fill a vacancy thereon. The attendance was small, and, as usual at this hour, no one was present from the branches.

Miss Morse, of the Relief Committee, reports that eight members of the Association are at present on the sick list. Mr. George V. Aker and Miss Mary

Boyle, linotype operators in the Printing Department, are both absent, Mr. Aker recovering after a serious operation, and Miss Boyle suffering from an accident incurred while on duty. Mrs. Joanna Doiron, of the Bindery, met with an accident in Montreal; Miss Anna Doonan, of the Shelf Department, is convalescing from an operation on her throat; Miss Margaret Keenan, of the Branch Department, is suffering from a severe cold; Miss Annie M. Twomey, of the Issue Department, is expected back soon, after a nervous breakdown; Mr. Charles Murphy, of the Engineers' Department, is in hospital, suffering from neuritis; and Miss Anna Dolan is still absent from her duties.

LIBRARY LIFE is glad to learn that all these members of the staff are on the road to health again. Miss Julia R. Zaugg, of the Special Libraries, returned to her post on October 9, after a severe attack of typhoid fever.

THE SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

At the annual meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston in May, the following officers were elected: Miss Harriet E. Howe, of Simmons College Library School, President; Mr. Edward H. Redstone, Librarian of the State Library, Vice-president; Miss Margaret Withington, of Simmons College Library School, Secretary; Miss Mildred Bradbury, Assistant librarian of the Harvard School of Landscape Architecture, Treasurer.

It was voted that Mr. Belden, Librarian of the Boston Public Library, be made an honorary member of the Association. He is the only member that the Association has honored itself by thus admitting to its ranks.

The next meeting of the Association will be held at the Treadwell Library of the Massachusetts General Hospital, on Monday evening, October 23, at 8 o'clock; the subject of the meeting will be "Hospital Libraries."

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume II, No. 2

November 15, 1922

CONTENTS.

THE PENSION SYSTEM	5	PERSONAL ITEMS	13
IMPRESSIONS OF A TRUSTEE	7	CHILDREN'S ROOM NEWS	14
LANGDON LAURISTON WARD	8	UNWONTED ACTIVITY	14
MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB	9	COURSES OF STUDY	15
EDITORIALS	10	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON	15
ANNA ROSE DOLAN	12	STAFF CLUB	16

THE PENSION SYSTEM.

In any attempt at an explanatory resumé of the Pension Act, it is self-evident that a regard for space must preclude an exhaustive detailed story. The best that one can be expected to do is to take the salient features, and try to throw upon them such light as may be.

The editor of LIBRARY LIFE has offered to extend the use of some space in future numbers to the answering of questions submitted by those seeking information on moot points, or perhaps a more detailed statement of some particular phase not fully treated in this article. Just now it seems pertinent to devote most space to the application of the Act to those now in the service who are nearing the retiring age, and who are the greatest beneficiaries, since to them it means practically a gratuitous pension.

This is true, because under the Act, the City recognizes a moral responsibility for past service, and this responsibility, known in financing the Act as the "accumulated liability," is the obligation of the City to treat those already in the service exactly the same as if they had been paying from the time they entered the employ of the City. Thus those who are now of the

retiring age may retire with as much allowance to their credit, without having had any pay deductions, as one in the future who has been in the service the same length of time, and has been paying throughout that time. It is this obligation of prior service without pay on the part of the beneficiaries that is to make the cost of the system so great during the early years of its operation. In no case will a pension greater than 50 per cent. of the salary, based on an average of that received during the last five years, be granted for prior service.

In consulting the percentage tables published with this article, which were compiled by the actuary employed by the Finance Commission, it will be noted that certain groups of employees take a longer time to reach a given percentage of wage for pension than certain other groups. It was claimed by opponents of the bill, when it was under discussion, that this was an unfair discrimination. This is not so, since the provisions of the bill simply take advantage of known actuarial facts and apply them in a scientific way, so as to do full justice to all. For instance, it is known that, as a general principle, the expectation of life is longer in women than in men. Likewise it is known that certain groups of workers among men have a shorter expectation of life than certain other

groups, and that the same thing is true in the case of women workers.

Among the men, policemen, firemen and laborers, having a shorter expectation of life than clerks and school teachers, reach a given percentage of their wage in less time than members of the latter groups; and among women, mechanics and laborers bear the same relation to female school teachers and clerks.

The justice lies in the fact that, whereas laborers and kindred groups take less time to reach a given figure than do clerks, etc., they live fewer years afterward, so that the clerks, female school teachers, etc., enjoy their pension over a longer period after receiving it. These provisions are based on known actuarial data, which are in use in every-day life insurance and annuity policies.

The age of compulsory retirement is seventy. Thirty days after the Act becomes operative, all employees seventy years of age, who become members, are automatically retired. Employees now in the service, seventy years of age or

over, but who do not become members of the system, may remain until February 1, 1926, when all such employees who are not members of the system will be retired. This provision does not apply to veterans of the Civil War, the Spanish War, the Philippine Insurrection, and the World War, nor to members of the judiciary.

The minimum age for *voluntary* retirement is sixty. City employees, other than policemen, who do not wish to retire at sixty, but whose retirement has been requested by the head of their department, may appeal to the Retirement Board and be heard.

What it all means to those now in the Library may be set forth briefly thus: Beginning February 1, 1926, you contribute four per cent. of your wages to buy an annuity. The amount of this annuity is matched by the city upon your retirement, thus doubling the earnings of your savings. You are credited with all the time you have been in the service, just as if you had paid during the entire period. You may join the system or not, as you choose.

ESTIMATED ANNUITIES, EXPRESSED AS PERCENTAGES OF THE AVERAGE SALARY OF THE LAST FIVE YEARS WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE AGES OF RETIREMENT SHOWN, BY FOUR PER CENT. CONTRIBUTIONS OF AVERAGE EMPLOYEES, BEGINNING TO CONTRIBUTE AT THE AGES STATED. THESE ANNUITIES WILL BE MATCHED BY A PENSION OF EQUAL AMOUNT, TO BE GIVEN BY THE CITY.

AGE AT BEGINNING TO CONTRIBUTE	AGE AT TIME OF RETIREMENT.										
	60	61	62	63	64	65	66	67	68	69	70
MEN · CLERKS.											
20	27.9	30.2	32.7	35.4	38.3	41.6	45.1	49.0	53.3	57.9	63.1
25	23.5	25.5	27.6	30.4	32.6	35.4	38.5	41.9	45.6	49.7	54.2
30	19.1	20.8	22.6	24.6	26.8	29.2	31.9	34.7	37.9	41.4	45.3
35	14.8	16.3	17.8	19.5	21.3	23.3	25.5	27.9	30.6	33.5	36.7
40	11.0	12.1	13.4	14.8	16.3	17.9	19.7	21.7	23.9	26.3	28.9
MEN LABORERS.											
20	31.9	34.6	37.4	40.6	44.0	47.7	51.8	56.3	61.1	66.5	72.3
25	25.9	28.2	30.6	33.2	36.1	39.3	42.7	46.5	50.6	55.1	60.1
30	20.5	22.3	24.3	26.5	28.9	31.5	34.4	37.5	40.9	44.7	48.8
35	15.6	17.1	18.7	20.5	22.5	24.6	27.0	29.5	32.3	35.4	38.8
40	11.3	12.5	13.9	15.3	16.9	18.6	20.5	22.6	24.8	27.3	30.1

Example: If a clerk entered the employ of the City when he was thirty-five years old, and remains until he is seventy, with a salary of thirty dollars per week during his last five years of service, his annuity on retiring will amount to 36.7 per cent. of his salary, to which the City will add another 36.7 per cent., so that his retirement allowance will be 73.4 per cent of his salary, equal to \$22.02 per week.

If you do not wish to join you must notify the Retirement Board in writing to that effect, within sixty days after February 1, 1923. If you do not join within the next year, you lose all benefits accruing from prior service. This proviso (Section 5) gives to each of us the feminine privilege of changing our mind, and a year in which to do it.

Entrance into the system is optional with you, but it becomes obligatory with all who enter the employ of the city or county after February 1, 1923.

The money you contribute, with its earnings, is yours as long as you live, or your estate's at your death, up to the time you become a pensioner. All claim to the return of your contributions ceases as soon as you accept the first payment of your entire retirement allowance. Your retirement allowance is the sum of your annuity and pension combined.

If you are a beneficiary under any other form of pension allowed by the city or county and wish to become a member of this system, you must say so in writing. You cannot at the same time be a member of this system and a participant in any other pension system allowed by city or county.

You may accept a lesser pension than you are entitled to, and provide for the difference being paid to wife, minor child or dependent parent.

In case of accident incurred in the line of duty, which results in total disability, the pension paid is equal to three-fourths pay, based on the last year's salary.

In case of the death of an employee from any cause in the line of duty, a death benefit is paid, consisting of the payment to his legal representative of the sum of his contributions, and to his dependents of a pension equal to one-half his pay, based on the last year's salary.

In consulting the percentage tables published, it should be borne in mind that they apply approximately and that it is doubtful if any individual case will work out exactly as set forth in them. Each case is a separate case, and will naturally show some slight variation one way or the other.

J. W. K.

CONDENSED TABLES OF ANNUITIES, EXPRESSED AS PERCENTAGES OF SALARY, WHICH WILL BE PROVIDED AT THE AGE OF SIXTY BY THE FOUR PER CENT. CONTRIBUTIONS OF EMPLOYEES, BEGINNING TO CONTRIBUTE AT THE AGES SHOWN.

AGE OF ENTRY	YEARS OF CONTRIBUTION	PERCENTAGE OF SALARY PAID AS ANNUITY	
		MEN	WOMEN
CLERKS.			
20	40	27.9	24.7
25	35	23.5	20.8
30	30	19.1	16.9
35	25	14.8	13.2
40	20	11.0	9.7
45	15	7.6	6.7
50	10	4.6	4.1
55	5	2.1	1.8
59	1	.4	.3
LABORERS.			
20	40	31.9	31.0
25	35	25.9	25.1
30	30	20.5	19.8
35	25	15.6	15.1
40	20	11.3	11.0
45	15	7.7	7.5
50	10	4.7	4.5
55	5	2.1	2.0
59	1	.4	.4

Note: In addition to these annuities, the employees will receive pensions of at least equal amounts.

IMPRESSIONS OF A TRUSTEE.

On Beacon Hill is a lawyer's office which was once, evidently, the drawing-room of a Boston dwelling-house. The walls are white-panelled, the furniture, solid old mahogany; there is a grate fire, and an early American lamp, cunningly wired. Against this background one finds a very modern business man, Mr. Guy W. Currier, recently appointed trustee of the Boston Public Library.

Though Mr. Currier has attended but three trustees' meetings to date, he knows a good deal about the workings of the Library. He is enthusiastic, too, about the fairness of the Librarian in his dealings with a large and far-flung force. Mr. Currier is aware how difficult it is for the Central Library and the Branches and Reading Rooms really to know each other. He believes,

however, that the Staff Club will eventually succeed in solving this problem.

The new trustee speaks highly of the spirit of the Library employees and their loyalty to the institution. He believes that vacancies which occur should be filled from the present staff, whenever possible, and that every opportunity should be given the employees to fit themselves for advancement. Like the other members of the Board of Trustees, he is interested in suggestions for courses of instruction which come from members of the staff.

Mr. Currier is of the opinion that business men do not realize the importance and usefulness of the Public Library. The scholar we have always with us, but the Library must go after the man of business and tempt his interest with material which will be helpful and easily accessible. Another practical approach to business men is through the talks on the Library and its resources, which are given to the secretarial classes of Simmons College and Boston University. When the students of these classes become secretaries, they will be able to suggest to their employers how the Library can help them in their work. Mr. Currier is strongly in favor of a Business Branch library in the down-town section of Boston, and is doing all he can to enlist the interest and sympathy of Boston business men. M. E. P.

LANGDON LAURISTON WARD.

It is not easy to realize that three months have passed by since we heard the voice or footfall of one who was long the friend of all of us. Langdon Ward was with us last on Saturday, July 29, and when his day's work was over we knew of no reason for thinking we should never see him again. The next day, Sunday, he went to Bedford to make arrangements for his annual vacation, which was to begin on Thursday of that week. He spent most of the day in Bedford and returned to Boston in the afternoon, but did not reach his home; for, while waiting in

the subway he was stricken with cerebral hemorrhage, and the rest of his life was a time of only partial consciousness. He was taken to the Eliot Hospital, where he died August 15. His funeral, which was held in St. Paul's Cathedral on the afternoon of the 17th, was in charge of the Rev. Edward T. Sullivan, D.D., and was largely attended both by his associates in the Library and by others who had known him.

Mr. Ward was born in Boston, June 25, 1858, the son of Langdon Storer and Ellen (Spalding) Ward. He was a student in the Latin School, whence he passed to Amherst College, to be graduated in the class of 1879. After graduation he studied and practised law for a time, but it seems quite natural, considering his strongly-marked Puritan antecedents, that his mental and spiritual impulsion should shortly turn him from the law to the ministry. As his father was for years the treasurer of the American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions, it was again quite natural that he should begin his theological course at Andover Seminary. There he broke in some degree with his inherited Puritanism, and soon left Andover to receive the larger part of his training in divinity at the Episcopal Theological School in Cambridge, from which he was graduated in 1884.

He did not, however, long remain in the active work of the ministry. Perhaps, like that of many clergymen of his day, his thought tended more to sociology than to theology. At any rate, in 1896, he became connected with this Library, taking charge of the Broadway Extension Station. In this first and not prominent position the purpose of his long preparation began to show, and from it his main work of life opened out; for in 1898 he was promoted to be Supervisor of the numerous branches, reading-rooms and stations of the Library. Thenceforth he held this post as if destined for it, giving it through twenty-four years the fruit of all his endowments and acquirements. His work was accomplished, like that of fine machinery, without sound of friction. His manifold duties, whether the

installation of new quarters, the selection of books to be kept in them, the choice of the many thousand volumes of the deposit collection, the making out of reports, the improvement and co-ordination of all parts of the large system which he was developing, or the guidance and control of more than a hundred helpers in smaller and greater positions, were all discharged in quiet and with apparent ease. In all this large and multiform endeavor he enjoyed the loyalty of his many assistants. It is not too much to say that all of them held him in the highest esteem.

The influence of such a presence among us need not be specified in detail, even if it could be. It was pervasive. It told in one large effective result. What a man gives to the world is not his deeds, but himself.

Some of us met him frequently at the gatherings of the Librarians' Club, of which he was secretary from 1903 to 1906. In those gatherings he was the congenial companion, contributing to them more than his share of "good talk." He took us into the living-room of his spirit, and we found it lofty and spacious. It is not inappropriate to transfer to him what was so quaintly written about one of his name who flourished more than two centuries ago, that "besides his accomplishments in learning he was esteemed a person of fine conversation, and of great sagacity in dexterously managing proper conjunctures."

For us among whom he walked daily he was the man who knew many things learned through varied study and experience, the man of broad enough view to be not without tolerance and even sympathy with the ideas of others, not without ability to learn as well as teach, the man of a good heart. He was never a seeker for himself, but a servant of all, desirous and contented to be a fellow-builder of an institution which he believed to be a large and important one. He was unsuspicious, deferent, frank and fair. How strong, wise, unobtrusive, cheerful and lovable a presence has gone from among us! While he was here we had a lively im-

pression of what he was, and since his going we find that

"Time but the impression deeper makes,
As streams their channels deeper wear."
H. L. W.

THE MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB

The Massachusetts Library Club held its fall meeting at Greenfield, Mass., October 19-21, in conjunction with the Western Massachusetts Library Club and the New England School Library Association. Among those who attended the meeting were eleven representatives of the Boston Public Library system, as follows: Mr. John Murdoch, of the Catalogue Department, Miss Elizabeth P. Ross and Miss Elizabeth H. McShane, of the Codman Square Branch, and, from the Reading Rooms, Miss Katherine F. Muldoon, of Allston, Miss Edith R. Nickerson, of Boylston Station, Miss Margaret H. Reid, of Mt. Pleasant, Miss Ellen C. McShane, of Neponset, Miss Mary M. Sullivan, of Parker Hill, Miss Katrina M. Sather, of Roxbury Crossing, and Miss Fanny Goldstein and Miss Theodora B. Scoff, of Tyler Street.

The weather was beautiful, and the meeting an interesting one. Among the recreations of Thursday evening was a game — its solemnity suited to our serious craft — in which those present were invited to guess the authors and titles of ten recent popular books, from which characteristic passages were read. We are proud to report that the prize was carried off by Miss Goldstein, who guessed all but two of the ten books. Our pride is increased by the fact that one of the two works which were unknown to the winner was "Simon Called Peter" — a book which, until very lately, has not been obtainable in Boston.

Mrs. Leo Herzog, of Philadelphia (Bessie Rosemond, formerly of the Auditor's office) is the mother of a boy, born a short time ago.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. II, No. 2.

November 15, 1922

LATEST: — Miss Boyle and Mr. Aker both at work again: twelve pages!

DR. MANN.

Every member of the Library staff will take pride in the election of the Reverend Dr. Mann, President of the Board of Trustees of the Library, for the fourth time to a bishopric in the Protestant Episcopal Church. He was on November eighth chosen Bishop of Pittsburgh.

Dr. Mann has long been an eminent and beloved citizen of Boston. To the Library he has been a devoted Trustee, giving generously of his time and thought to its service. It will be hard to think of either Boston or the Library without him. If he goes to Pittsburgh, he will take with him the affection and good wishes of every member of the Library staff, and of thousands of the people of Boston; if he decides to remain here, we shall all feel grateful that his wise and kindly presence will continue to preside at the meetings of the governing board of the Library. Whether he goes or stays, LIBRARY LIFE takes the opportunity to greet him with warm regard.

JOIN THE STAFF CLUB.

It is pleasant to note that our new Trustee, Mr. Currier, recognizes the importance of the Staff Club as a means of bringing the Central Library and the Branches closer together, and of helping to mold the staff into some

sort of unity. The growth of the Club has been steady, and it now has 140 members; but its work is still in its infancy, and it is only gradually finding its true place in the life of the institution.

After three seasons in which its membership has been subject to certain restrictions, the Club voted at its last meeting to amend the Constitution so as to open the doors of membership to every person in the regular day service of the Library. The programme of the Club has been so extended, and its outlook has so greatly broadened, that it seems no longer right or wise to restrict its privileges to any particular class of the Library employees; this step is sure to enable the Club to do a larger work in unifying the staff and in helping to cultivate a larger and richer life in the Library. Every employee should carefully examine the programme of the Club for the current year, and see if it does not contain some good reason why he or she should become a member without further delay. Let us get together, and help ourselves by helping each other.

AS OTHERS SEE US.

In *The Harvard Graduates' Magazine* for June, 1922, appears an article, entitled "Why do we have librarians?" by Dr. Earley V. Wilcox, which is easily the most delightful and illuminating discussion of the library profession which has seen the light in many a day. We offer a few specimen nuggets, in the hope that every member of the staff may be led to dip into the article.

"The most important thing in a library is the librarian, and a librarian in a bare room is a better reference library than a huge pile of books."

"The librarian will not be able to untie all the knots (of his readers), but perhaps he will be able to hold a candle while they struggle with the knots themselves. Let him always hold the candle and talk pleasantly while he is holding it."

"The chief art of a reference or loan desk librarian is the knack of divining

by long experience what the inquirer really desires."

"Many are so embarrassed in the presence of unveiled books that they 'choke to death and die with the secret in them,' rather than tell the librarian what they want."

These are only samples of the writer's wit and wisdom.

THE PENSION.

Some things cannot be put off. We all want to know what the impending municipal pension system is going to be like, and how it will affect us, individually and as members of an institution. Although the present issue is for mechanical reasons cut down to eight pages — for which the editors are duly grateful; last month we had only four — no one begrudges the space given to the leading article. Its author, Mr. James W. Kenney, has been from the beginning a clear-headed and hard-hitting fighter for the pension. *LIBRARY LIFE* is glad to print this able exposition from his hand.

Many points in the working of the system will only be cleared up by its actual operation; in regard to other points there will be differences of interpretation which may have to come before the courts. But the main outlines are unquestioned, and these Mr. Kenney sets before us so that we may all understand them. If any member of the staff wishes further light on any point in Mr. Kenney's article, or desires information about some feature of the Act or its workings on which he fails to touch, the expert author will be glad to clear them up in future issues of *LIBRARY LIFE*; a Pension Question-Box will be made a feature of the paper just as long as questions continue to come in. Speak up, and propound your difficulties.

A word about the tables which are published with Mr. Kenney's article. In reading these, it must be steadily borne in mind that every case under the Pension Act will, in practice, be an individual one, and that the averages contained in these tables will very

likely not correspond exactly to any actual case. In applying the figures to your own situation, it will be well to reduce them a little, to avoid disappointment. The tables illustrate the principles of the working of the system; but they represent only approximately the payments that can actually be expected.

It will be noted that these tables give merely the amounts of the annuities purchased by the accumulating deductions from pay; in every case the City matches the annuity by a pension of equal amount, up to 50 per cent. of the salary. The total retirement allowance will thus be twice the percentage of salary which is shown in the tables.

THE NEW SUPERVISOR.

The Library is fortunate in its new Supervisor of Branches. It is not always that a person so well equipped for an important and responsible position is available, when the hand of Providence suddenly makes a vacancy. Mr. Ward was so steady that we had become used to regarding him as a fixture, an institution, that would go on in spite of everything; and suddenly he was no more. The thirty-one Branches and Reading Rooms were without a head.

A vacancy like this calls for a person who combines intimate experience of the institution with the qualities requisite for success in the work to be done. Twenty-four years ago such a person was discovered in Mr. Ward; and Miss Guerrier's career has been such as to make her his logical successor. Her experience at the North End Branch, which she created, and in her more recent work as Supervisor of Circulation, together with what she has accomplished in wider fields — especially her work under Mr. Hoover, which afforded her a nation-wide familiarity with libraries and their problems — have given her an unusual equipment for constructive library achievement. Her recent election to the Council of the American Library Association and to membership in the

American Library Institute shows how she is regarded by the leading librarians of the country. *LIBRARY LIFE* prophesies for her a distinguished success in her new post.

At their meeting on October 20, the Board of Trustees appointed Miss Mary H. Rollins Editor of Library Publications, and Miss Fanny Goldstein Librarian of the West End Branch.

LIBRARY LIFE greets Miss Rollins and Miss Goldstein in their new positions. Miss Rollins, who had been so long and closely associated with Mr. Swift in his editorial work, was the obvious person to succeed him; she has all the qualifications desirable in a competent editor. Miss Goldstein's experience at the North End Branch, and later as Librarian of the Tyler Street Reading Room, has amply demonstrated her capacity for the efficient management of a library, and *LIBRARY LIFE* confidently expects to see her accomplish fine things at the West End.

OPPORTUNITIES.

The Library is making excellent progress in the provision of means by which its employees may obtain instruction and training of various sorts which will help them to do their work with more intelligence and effectiveness, and to prepare themselves for advancement as opportunity offers.

The two courses given in the Library last year — the Informal Talks to Junior Assistants by librarians of successful experience, and the course of lectures on English Literature, given by Professor Robert E. Rogers — were taken by a large number of members of the staff, every one of whom derived some real benefit from them.

The two courses offered this year follow the lines which proved effective last season: Professor Rogers will give a course in American Literature, paralleling last year's course, and there will be a course in Reference Work,

for Junior Assistants, which will seek to supply practical instruction in the use of the more common library tools, for those younger employees who deal with the public.

But these courses, if they are to justify the time put upon them, must be taken seriously and systematically. The work will not be complete unless each person enrolled in a course takes the examination at its conclusion. Professor Rogers and the Librarian were both disappointed in the small number who took the examination in the course in English Literature; similarly, only a few of those who attended the Informal Talks took the trouble to write in competition for the prizes offered for the best papers based on the talks.

Many who heard Mr. Wellman last year expressed regret that the Boston Public Library does not maintain a training class. If those who desire such a class will make the most of the courses offered, they will by their spirit do much to encourage the authorities of the Library to proceed as soon as conditions permit to the organization of a training class. If you want to get ahead, make the most of every chance that is opened for making yourself a more useful and better informed person.

ANNA ROSE DOLAN.

Anna Rose Dolan entered the service of the Boston Public Library as an assistant at the Jamaica Plain Branch in March, 1918, and remained at this branch for a period of six months. In March, 1920, she was permanently appointed to the staff of the Issue Department of the Central Library. In April, 1922, ill health forced her to ask for a leave of absence: during the months that followed, her library companions kept in close touch with her. She passed away on Friday, November 3, at the age of 22. The funeral services were held at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, and were attended by Miss Sheridan and four of her stack companions.

PERSONAL ITEMS.

At the meeting of the Board of Trustees on October 20, Monsignor Arthur T. Connolly was elected Vice-President of the Board, in place of the late Samuel Carr.

Miss Elizabeth Barry, of the Catalogue Department, is one of seventeen women who, in July, passed the examination for admission to the Suffolk Bar, and on the 22d of September she was sworn in. So the Library now has a full-fledged lawyer, qualified to practise in any state court of Massachusetts. Miss Barry's preparation was gained in the evening sessions of the Portia Law School, while she continued to carry on her work in the Library: she received the degree of LL.B., *cum laude*, in June, 1921. The fact that seventeen women were admitted to the bar at a single examination (albeit less than a twelfth of the total number of admissions) reminds us how things have changed since the days of our grandmothers.

On October 24, a son, Vincent Faulkner, was born to Mr. and Mrs. Michael J. Conroy. When interviewed at his desk in Bates Hall, Mr. Conroy informed the reporter that within a few years the young man will be the second All-America star in his family. Congratulations.

Mr. William F. A. Graham took his vacation by spending the month of August at the Citizens' Military Training Camp at Camp Devens. He intends to go again next year, and believes that every young man should, at some time, take this training.

The junior assistants of the East Boston Branch Library were hostesses at a pleasant Halloween party, held after hours on Tuesday evening, October 31, in the Children's Room of the Library. The decorations included a delightful witches' caldron, which was set in the fire-place. Victrola music was provided through the kindness of

Mr. Everett F. Matthews, the janitor of the Branch.

The chairman of the Relief Committee of the Benefit Association reports that five members of the Library staff are at present absent from their places because of sickness. Miss Julia Zaugg, of the Fine Arts Department, is paying the penalty of having returned to work too soon after her attack of typhoid; Miss Margaret Keenan, of the Branch Department, is still suffering from iritis; and Miss Alice Morris, of the Bindery. Mr. George Zittel of the Engineer Department, and Mr. Thomas J. O'Neil, janitor at the Brighton Branch, are all on the sick list.

LIBRARY LIFE is glad to welcome back from their enforced absences Mr. George V. Aker, Miss Mary Boyle, Mrs. Joanna Doiron, Miss Anna Doonan, Mr. Charles Murphy, and Miss Annie Twomey, all of whom were ill at the time of our last issue.

Wendell Herbert, our late office boy, left the service of the Library on October 7, to learn the wool business in the employ of the Blake, Vaas and Kelligrew Company. He has been succeeded by his predecessor, James E. Kennedy. Wendell's many friends wish him the best of luck.

Two photographs by Mr. John Murdoch, of the Catalogue Department, were among those selected for display in the recent annual exhibition of the Photographers' Guild of the Boston Society of Arts and Crafts.

At the Detroit Conference of the American Library Association last June, Miss Edith Guerrier was elected to the Council of the Association for a five-year term.

His Honor the Mayor allowed the Salvation Army in their recent drive to solicit contributions from the employees of the city. On Monday, November 6, the Central Library was canvassed; the contributions amounted to \$70.15.

The Bowling Party, scheduled for November 14, at the South Boston Yacht Club, occurred too late to be recorded in this issue. Full details will appear in the next number.

CHILDREN'S ROOM NEWS.

The fourth annual Children's Book Week is observed this year, November 12-18. Its purpose is to encourage a love of books among children and the discussion of boys' and girls' reading among older people. The observance of the week in our Library takes the form of book exhibits in the Central Children's Room and in many of the Branches and Reading Rooms. Miss Jordan spoke on the subject of Children's Reading at the Woburn Public Library, to the local Parent-Teacher Association, on Wednesday afternoon, Nov. 8, and at the Institute of Arts and Sciences, Manchester, N. H., under the auspices of its Literature Committee, on Tuesday, Nov. 14.

The Children's Room has recently acquired a new showcase, finely adapted for displaying the exhibits of all sorts of children's work, which have come to be one of the attractions of the room. The Junior Red Cross exhibit now on view, following a collection of Indian products, is of great interest; the articles were made by the Red Cross children of Europe. Hungary, Germany, and Roumania are among the countries represented here. One card is covered with paper money amounting to 30 kronen (\$6.07), which is the price of one loaf of bread in Vienna. The doll and cradle, fancy baskets and boxes, all so dear to our little American girls, are evidences of the close relationship of children the world over, and prove that the Junior Red Cross is "one big family."

On Saturday, November 4, a new catalogue case was installed in the Children's Room. This is the first of the universal standard-size cases to be used in the Central Library. Eventually, when the present catalogue cases

are discarded, the entire system will be standardized.

The Boston Public Library, being the first library to use a card catalogue, adopted a card that was five and one-half inches wide. Twenty-five years ago it was decided by a great many libraries, as a matter of economy, to adopt a standard-size catalogue card; the card adopted was five inches wide, and has been known since that time as the standard card. While the Library has continued to print its cards on stock five and one-half inches wide, a half-inch margin has been left, which may be cut off at any time.

Over twenty-five thousand cards in the old children's catalogue had to have the margin cut off before they could fit into the new case. The work was done by the big cutting machines in the Bindery. The cards all had to be sorted and separated before they were sent to the Bindery, as there were fifteen hundred cards that were printed before the adoption of the standard-size card, and which consequently did not have the half-inch margin. These cards will have to be typewritten or reprinted on standard-size cards before they can be put into the new case.

The new case matches the color scheme of the desks, and is mounted on a regulation stand. It contains twenty-five drawers, one more than the old case; these drawers are four inches longer than the old ones.

UNWONTED ACTIVITY.

About half-past seven on Saturday evening, October 14, William O'Brien was delegated to tell five boys, who had been causing a disturbance in the Children's Room, to leave the room. Words followed from the boys, indicating that they would leave when someone put them out. After a brief debate, O'Brien decided to get an officer; on this errand, he went down the stairs and out into the vestibule. Meanwhile, the trouble-makers had come down, and as O'Brien was standing inside the entrance, two marauders hurled themselves at him, with the re-

sult that he was "catapulted" out the door. The whole quintet now jumped on the victim. One of the bravos, upon being thrown down, seized O'Brien by the ankles and pulled him to the ground, while the other four were using their fists to advantage.

Suddenly, for some unknown reason, the oppressors ceased their assaults and fled in all directions. O'Brien did not stop to figure out the miracle, but chased one of the youths across Copley Square to Trinity Church, where the pursued ran into the arms of Patrolman Flaherty of Station 16. Leaving the prisoner in the care of his pursuer, the officer gave chase to a second culprit, whom he captured; the other three boys escaped.

O'Brien was taken to the City Hospital, where his injuries were treated. Some few minutes before closing time, the doughty assistant was back on his job in the Children's Room. F. P. Z.

COURSES OF STUDY.

The Librarian, with the aid of the Committee on Courses of Study, has arranged for the present season two courses of instruction for library assistants. One of these is a public course in American Literature, specially adapted to the needs of library workers, to be given by Professor Robert E. Rogers; the other, an elementary course in Reference Work for Junior Assistants. The first course, which is offered by the Division of University Extension of the Massachusetts Department of Education, will be given on Friday mornings in the Lecture Hall of the Library, and will be divided into two parts: the first, consisting of twenty lectures, will cover the history of the literature up to 1870; the second, of ten lectures, will deal with the period since 1870, including all the interesting phenomena of contemporary literature. The course in Reference Work will be given by members of the staff, on ten Tuesday mornings, beginning November 21; it will be a part of the regular library work of the assistants who take it. In order to avoid conflicts, it will

be repeated on Thursday mornings, beginning February 8.

Detailed announcements of both courses are in the hands of all departmental chiefs and librarians of Branches and Reading Rooms.

THE SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The October meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston was held in the beautiful Treadwell Library of the Massachusetts General Hospital, on Monday evening, October 23. Although the night was very stormy, sixty-five members were in attendance, and were quickly made to forget the wet world outside by the warm hospitality of Mrs. Grace W. Myers, the librarian.

The topic of the meeting, "Hospital Libraries," was admirably covered by the eight speakers who had been selected to treat various phases of the subject, so that those present went away with a new idea of the possibilities and problems of these special libraries engaged in helping forward the work of healing.

The Massachusetts General Hospital is peculiar in the possession of two libraries, the Warren Library, founded in 1841, for the patients, of which Mrs. Lydia H. Jewett is librarian; and the Treadwell Library, for the use of the staff, under the charge of Mrs. Myers. This collection, which contains more than 10,000 volumes, stands second only to that of the Johns Hopkins Hospital among the hospital libraries of America.

The next meeting of the Association will be held at the Boston Athenaeum, on Monday, November 27, at 7.45 p. m. Miss Edith Guerrier, of the Boston Public Library, and Miss Chie Hirano, of the Museum of Fine Arts, will tell of their experiences among European libraries the past summer. Mr. Bolton will display some of the treasures of the Athenaeum library.

The Education Committee of the Special Libraries Association an-

nounces a course in elementary cataloguing, to be conducted by Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell, Librarian of the Social Service Library; the course will consist of fifteen lessons, each lesson comprising one hour of instruction followed by one hour of supervised practice. The course, while designed to be elementary, will presuppose some experience in library work and will be adapted to the requirements of special libraries. The first meeting of the course will be held at the Social Service Library, 18 Somerset Street, on Monday, November 13, at seven p.m.

STAFF CLUB.

The first meeting of the Staff Club for the year 1922-23 was held in the Staff Lecture Room on Tuesday evening, October 24. At this meeting an amendment to Article III of the constitution was submitted to the Club members for action and was unanimously passed. Article III now reads: "Membership in the Club shall be open to all members of the regular day force of the Boston Public Library."

Reports of the committees on Current Events, Book Reviews, Music, Co-operative Buying, Dancing and Journalistic Work were read by the chairmen. These reports gave promise of a Club year both pleasant and profitable.

After the business of the Club was transacted there were clever and enjoyable original readings by Miss Ida W. Gould, Miss Christine Hayes and Miss Mary E. Prim, members of the Club. A responsive audience applauded Miss Hayes's delicate and sympathetic appreciation of our kindly past associate, Mr. John F. Locke, chuckled with glee at Miss Gould's humorous account of Miss Tweedie's Wedding and listened in rapt attention to the love story of Contrary Mary, the little librarian, told in Miss Prim's delightful style.

The Hospitality Committee, consisting of Miss Laura Cross, Miss Fanny Goldstein and Mr. John Murdoch, served ice cream, cake and chocolate mints. Dancing followed, with Miss

Mary Curley graciously presiding at the piano.

For the remainder of the year, the program of meetings is as follows:

November. Reading, "Mister Antonio," and Italian songs.

December. Christmas party.

January. Meeting in charge of the Dramatic Committee.

February. Meeting in charge of the Book Review Committee.

March. Meeting in charge of the Music Committee.

April. Meeting in charge of the Current Events Committee.

May. Annual Meeting.

Detailed announcements of these meetings will be made from month to month.

The next meeting of the Club will be held on Thursday evening, November 23, at 7:45; members are requested to observe the earlier meeting-hour. Miss Mae Wiles will read Booth Tarkington's "Mister Antonio." Miss Wiles, who is a graduate of the Leland Powers School, has been particularly successful in portraying the rhapsodic, idealistic Italian hurdy-gurdy man, the hero of this well-known character play; the part was taken by Mr. Otis Skinner when the play was presented at the Hollis Street Theatre. Miss Olympia Cella, of the North End Branch, will add to the evening's pleasure by singing several Italian songs.

The sub-committee on Writing and Journalistic Work is fortunate in having secured the co-operation of Mr. F. W. C. Hersey, of Harvard University, who has so long and successfully conducted the University Extension Course in English Composition, held in the Library Lecture Hall on Friday evenings. Mr. Hersey will give to the members of the group an introductory talk, as a preface to the course of practice work which is planned. Nineteen members of the Club signified their interest in writing; the committee will welcome any further recruits, who wish to get some help in simple composition. Most of us need such training; this is a good chance to obtain it.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume II, No. 3

December 15, 1922

CONTENTS.

SAMUEL CARR, 1848-1922	17	EXHIBITIONS	25
WHAT TO DO FOR THE BABIES	18	TEN-BOOK LISTS	25
STRIKES AND SPARES	19	CLEMENCEAU AT THE LIBRARY	25
RECENT LIBRARY LITERATURE	19	NEW PERIODICALS	26
RUSSIAN OPERA LECTURES	20	THE STURGES SALE	26
PENSION QUESTION BOX	21	NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP	26
BETHUNE-SLOAN	21	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON	27
EDITORIALS	22	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	28
NEWS NOTES	23	STAFF CLUB	28

SAMUEL CARR. 1848-1922.

Mr. Samuel Carr, vice-president of the Board of Trustees of the Library, died Monday, May 29, after a lingering illness. He was first appointed a trustee in 1895, serving but a single year. Re-appointed in 1908, he had been vice-president since 1917.

Mr. Carr, the son of Samuel and Louisa (Trowbridge) Carr, came of New England ancestry; he was born November 18, 1848, in Charlestown, then a village of suburban homes, surrounded by gardens and orchards, not the compactly built urban district of to-day. When he was but 14 the family moved to West Newton.

His education was not academic, but was gained, after graduation from the High School, by direct participation in the affairs of business, for which he had a natural aptitude. After extended experience in banking (following the career of his father) he became, in March, 1883, the confidential secretary of Mr. Frederick L. Ames, who was connected with various extensive enterprises, and was one of the most successful financiers in Massachusetts. Mr. Carr was then but 34 years of

age, but already, though he was so young a man, his experience, developing his natural ability, particularly qualified him for such a position. He had at the time been ten years married. His wife, who with two daughters survives him, was Miss Susan Waters Tarbox, daughter of the late Rev. Increase N. Tarbox, D.D., a well-known Congregational clergyman.

Upon Mr. Ames's death in 1893, Mr. Carr became one of his executors and a trustee of his estate; he was later trustee also of the estate of Mr. Ames's cousin, the late Governor Oliver Ames. These fiduciary relations continued until his death. As a result of them he became a trustee of many important undertakings and director in numerous industrial and commercial corporations.

He was a faithful counselor, a loyal friend, a man who approached the solution of large problems with a judicial mind and a clear and balanced judgment, and one whose decisions were always made under the influence of high principle. A friend well says of him, "His was a warm and generous heart and a kindly spirit, that shed its light on all with whom he was associated."

Quiet and unobtrusive in manner, he brought to the affairs of the Library unflagging interest, and was one of the most useful members of the Board. He was especially devoted to the Department of Music, and every plan for its increased usefulness moved him to responsive and appreciative action.

For music to him made a special appeal. It is often truly said that modern men of business seldom have direct or intelligent interest in the arts. There are, of course, wealthy amateurs and collectors, patrons of music or the drama. Such men have their reward. But one may use his wealth in such ways without having the personal love, the intelligent appreciation, which alone make for culture and spiritual growth. Besides his keen business sense, his active part in affairs, Mr. Carr had a thorough technical knowledge of music in its various forms, and notable power of execution upon that noble instrument the organ, together with the creative impulse which found expression from time to time in musical compositions of unusual merit.

The Street might think of him as an acute man of business, as indeed he was. But there was this other side to his character, and to music he brought the temperament of the artist, the soul of a poet, though he might have disclaimed either attribute.

In that charming house on Commonwealth Avenue where he lived for many years he installed a fine organ, in an appropriate setting. It was a rare privilege to listen to his playing there, at favorable moments, possibly when the great music room was flooded with golden light, or when, by contrast, the falling twilight invited quiet and repose. Softly the keys responded to his skilled touch, or again the harmonies of the full register rolled through the high chamber. One who had felt the emotional thrill of this experience was not likely to forget it.

Of course he was identified with the institutions devoted to musical culture and expression in Boston. For twenty years he was the chorister and organist of his church — the historic Old South. He was president of the Board of Trus-

tees of the New England Conservatory, and a director of the Boston Opera Company, during its brief but noteworthy venture into the field of grand opera at the new Boston Opera House. In addition to these responsibilities, he was closely associated with the Harvard Musical Association, and was an honorary associate of the American Guild of Organists.

When on Easter Day, 1904, he closed his long term of service as organist of his church, one of his compositions, "Break o'er the earth, thou glad prophetic morning," was appropriately sung; and at the impressive funeral service on Thursday, June 2, when the church was thronged with those who came to pay their last tribute of affection and respect, Mrs. Littlefield sang with touching effect another of his hymns, "We bless Thee for Thy peace, O God."

For months he had faced the inevitable end, with rare courage, and without complaining. The hymn voiced the spirit with which he passed away.

H. G. W.

WHAT TO DO FOR THE BABIES.

To those of us who were brought up in the wrong way, rocked in cradles, tossed gaily towards the ceiling by unthinking parents, allowed to breathe our share of bad air, to overeat, and to go to bed at night clasping close to our hearts a toy woolly dog which now, alas, would be called unsanitary, there is a flavor of novelty in the exhibit of Mothercraft now on view in the Special Libraries Exhibition Room, under the auspices of the Massachusetts Department of Public Health.

It is an attractive show, helpful, economical, the last word in common-sense baby science. There you see before your eyes how to start right, — with a bath tub, of course, an egg-shell affair of white enamel, scales for recording weight, and a bassinet, which is really an ordinary clothes-basket, equipped with bedding. A mammoth tooth-brush dangles in the air, its size indicating the importance and wisdom of prophylaxis. Infant playthings, too,

are held up for scrutinizing consideration, those that can be kept clean, of celluloid and washable materials, and others, cloth, feathery things, that are taboo. On the walls are photographs of rows of happy children, stripped for the weighing and measuring of sturdy growth. There is a line of straight backs, firm muscles and correct posture, and over against these a sad array of pot-bellied unfortunates, with wing shoulder-blades, crooked backs and flabby muscles.

It is hard to get past the glass case of wearing apparel without becoming maudlin. A tiny flannel shirt, size number one, is there, and socks of smallest known measure, a hooded, one-piece garment for out-door wear, — no frills, no embroidered ruffles, — but just what is wanted to keep the future citizen snug and warm against the blasts of winter.

Then, as you turn to go, a colored picture flashes before you. A pink, bare-legged, robust specimen lies stretched out on his back for a moment and is gone. Another picture comes and a huge, blond-headed infant, rosy with health, looks out at you and smiles, because he is well. Bless the babies!

C. H.

STRIKES AND SPARES.

The annual Library bowling party was held on Tuesday evening, November 14. A merry group of eleven women and twelve men, from the Central Library and the Branches, met at six o'clock at the South Boston Yacht Club house, and began the evening by enjoying a tempting picnic supper, prepared with forethought and skill by the Committee. Four captains were chosen, who in turn chose the teams. The teams were made up as follows: Team 1, Emil Hofman, of the Printing Department, captain, two men and three women; Team 2, James Sullivan, of the Shelf Department, captain, two men and three women; Team 3, John O'Brien, of the Bindery, captain, four men and two women; Team 4, William Swan, of the Bindery, captain, three men and three women.

The bowlers were enthusiastic and in fine form, and generous applause followed the successful hits, which were numerous. The scores:

	First String	Second String	Third String	Total Pinfall	Points Won
Team 1	291	329	322	942	1
Team 2	306	303	339	948	3
Team 3	369	421	430	1220	2
Team 4	427	412	427	1226	2

The high team averages were as follows: three-string, $70\frac{1}{3}$, by Team 4; high single average, $71\frac{2}{3}$, by Team 3. The individual high scores were as follows: Miss May Burke, 215; Miss Margaret Calnan, 194; Miss Ruth Von Schoppe, 194; Miss Anna Manning, 176; Mr. William Clegg, 259; Mr. Charles Webster, 251; Mr. George Earley, 247; and Mr. William Swan, 247. The individual high singles were rolled by Miss May Burke, with 79, and Mr. George Earley, with 107.

After the bowling the party returned to the supper room for a second lunch, and broke up at a seasonable hour.

The Committee were Miss May Burke, of the Issue Department; Miss Alice Barry, of the Registration Department; Miss Florence Sullivan, of Bates Hall Centre Desk; and Mr. John O'Brien, of the Bindery, who was the efficient chairman.

RECENT LIBRARY LITERATURE.

In the *Library Journal* for Nov. 1, there are several articles of special interest. One of these is on *Questionable Books*, and contains reports from many libraries and suggestions as to methods of handling such books, with various ideas as to restriction and circulation.

In the same issue there is an article entitled "Humanizing the A. L. A.," written by Mr. Ferguson of the California State Library, which is quite unconventional and very readable.

The Director of the Princeton University Library tells of "International Co-operation in Intellectual Work," outlining the great plans made in Belgium for an international library, and other similar enterprises. One of

these, the universal catalogue, already numbers twelve million cards in its files.

Miss Caroline M. Hewins writes delightfully of the progress of the David Copperfield Library for children, in London. This library occupies a house where Dickens lived as a boy of thirteen, and has many quaint features. Among the assistants are three neighborhood boys, who wear the proud titles of Warder of the Keys, Warder of the Door, and Warder of the Dungeon, the latter a basement reading-room, where little children are cared for.

An article on Librarians' Pensions in New York shows that we are not alone in our interest along that line. In New York the system is purely a state affair, is contributory and resembles our own plan in many points.

The November 15th issue of the *Library Journal* contains Miss Hartwell's paper on the Government Document Service, which was presented at the Detroit Conference of the A. L. A. The librarian of the James J. Hill Reference Library of St. Paul writes of that remarkable new institution, a purely reference library for advanced students and research workers.

The report of the "Follow Up" committee of the Boston Special Libraries Association may be found in the December 1st number of the *Library Journal*. This report has to do with keeping up the files of serial publications of all sorts, including documents, reports and catalogues. The committee finds that there is no perfect or "fool-proof" system, and suggests a plan of co-operation among libraries in one locality, or among those of a particular class. Illustrations of various methods are shown.

In *Public Libraries* for December, Miss Rathbone, of Pratt Institute, has an interesting article on "Standardization in Library Service." As our own Library was the first to adopt a system of grades, we are naturally interested in any advances which may have been made elsewhere. The author seems to feel that the New York Public Library has the best system, which

was partly based on our own. New York and Brooklyn have adopted a uniform system of grading. There seems to be no uniform plan throughout the country, but each library has gone ahead with its own scheme. A Grade 1 worker in one library may be a branch librarian, and in another a junior assistant. Salaries differ in the same sort of way, and the figures quoted make interesting reading. Miss Rathbone recommends that a general standardization be brought about, although the idea involves much hard work.

H. W. M.

RUSSIAN OPERA LECTURES.

The Music Division of the Library, coöperating with the Division of University Extension of the State Department of Education, presented a course of seven lectures on Russian Opera during the week December 1 to 8.

Each of the important novelties produced by the Russian Grand Opera Company was discussed, with musical illustrations. Henry Gideon opened the course with a talk on "Boris Godunoff"; Warren Storey Smith, of the *Transcript*, took up Rubinstein's "Demon"; Mr. Appel discussed "Pique Dame". "Sniegourotchka" was selected as his topic by Prof. Hill of Harvard, as was the "Czar's Bride" by Prof. Locke, of Smith College. Stuart Mason, of the New England Conservatory, dealt with "Eugen Onegin," and Olin Downes, of the *Boston Post*, brought the course to a close with "Mazeppa," "Christmas Eve" and "Night of Love."

The course proceeded exactly as announced, and in spite of the short time given to publicity there were over fifty enrollments. Most of those enrolled attended each lecture and, judging from the enthusiastic comments of several members, the course was a success.

On two days meetings were held in the Staff Lecture Room, which was barely large enough to accommodate those present; here, however, the group did not present the scattered appearance noted in the Lecture Hall.

The hour, from five-thirty to six-thirty, was evidently agreeable to those attending, and the lectures undoubtedly stimulated an interest in the general subject of Opera and in the particular school of Russian Opera.

R. G. A.

PENSION QUESTION BOX.

I.

Under Chapter 32, Sections 56-60, General Laws of Massachusetts, 1921, any veteran of the World War in city, state, or county service may be retired on half-pay after ten years of service, if *incapacitated*. After thirty years of service, he may be retired on half-pay if he so desires.

How is this provision affected by the new pension plan? In becoming a member of the pension system would a veteran forfeit his rights under the above law, which requires no contribution? The World War veterans of the Library would like an authoritative answer.

ANSWER.

Section 5, line 32, of the Pension Act says: "All persons who become employees after the establishment of this system shall as part of their employment become members of this retirement system, and shall receive no other pension or retirement allowance from the City of Boston or the County of Suffolk." Section 32 says: "All acts or parts of acts inconsistent herewith are hereby repealed. Nothing herein shall be construed as affecting the provisions of sections forty-nine to sixty, inclusive, of Chapter thirty-two of the General Laws, nor of Chapter two-hundred and eighty-nine of the Special Acts of nineteen hundred and sixteen."

This latter provision of Section 32 is meant to safeguard the interests of those veterans now in the service. Those who become employees after Feb. 1, 1923, must come in under the provisions of Section 5. In other words, they must waive any privileges given them under preceding Acts.

II.

The table printed on page 6 of Li-

BRARY LIFE shows the amount of annuity provided by the contributions of a man clerk, who entered the service of the City at the age of 20 and retires at 70, as 63.1 per cent. of his salary. If this amount were matched by the City, his retirement allowance would be 126.2 per cent. of his salary, so that he would receive 26.2 per cent. more after retirement than while working. As this seems absurd, I ask what, under the law, he would actually receive.

ANSWER.

The City would not match an annuity of 63.1 per cent. of wages with a pension of similar amount. The pension is limited to 50 per cent. of wages, based on the average wage received during the last five years in service. As the law now reads, it would be quite possible for a new entrant, after a sufficiently long term of service, to retire with a retirement allowance greater than his wage. Everything beyond 50 per cent. of the average wage would, however, be his own annuity, bought with his wage deductions.

BETHUNE-SLOAN.

Miss Florence M. Bethune, Librarian of the West End Branch, was married on August 30 last to Mr. Chester Lowell Sloan. The ceremony was performed by the Rev. Abbott Peterson, in the Arlington Street Church. Mr. and Mrs. Sloan are now living at 208 Fuller St., Brookline.

Miss Bethune had been a valued member of the Library staff for nineteen years. She entered the service as an assistant in the East Boston Branch, in October, 1903. In 1909 she became Custodian of the Orient Heights Reading Room, from which she was transferred in 1912 to Warren Street. In 1919, the work of this reading room had so expanded that it was made a branch library. On July 2, 1920, Miss Bethune was again transferred, this time to the West End Branch, which is the largest in the system.

During the year 1921-1922, Miss Bethune was president of the Staff Club.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*
CHRISTINE HAYES LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. II, No. 3. December 15, 1922

Once more, LIBRARY LIFE presents the compliments of the season. To all our readers, a Merry Christmas, and a very Happy New Year!

REGIONAL MEETINGS.

During the past fall, three groups of libraries in various sections of the country have assembled for local meetings representing a rather wide area. In one case — that of the meeting held by the library associations of Kansas, Missouri, and Nebraska, at St. Joseph, Mo. — the conference was called a "regional meeting of the A. L. A.," and had official sanction.

New England is waking up to the fact that its position isolates it from the rest of the country. It has its individual problems, but it must not allow itself to become provincial. Why is not this year a good time to call a regional meeting of the libraries of New England and New York, which together form a geographical group, not too large for a sectional unit within the A. L. A.? The national conference at Hot Springs will be attended by but few from this part of the country; its early date leaves the summer clear. The Northeastern Regional Meeting could be held in June, and might well be as successful, on a smaller scale, as was the A. L. A. conference at Swampscott.

These regional associations once established, it will be possible for many librarians, who now reach an A. L. A. conference only on rare occasions, to have an opportunity to at-

tend an important library meeting once a year. When the A. L. A. comes within reach, the regional meeting may be omitted; when it is distant, the regional meeting resumes its functions. "Eventually — why not now?"

Every member of the staff will be glad to read Mr. Wadlin's sympathetic sketch of the late Samuel Carr, honored Vice-President of the Library Trustees, with which the present issue opens. The article was written soon after Mr. Carr's death, but mechanical conditions have unfortunately postponed its publication until now.

THE OPERA LECTURES.

Mr. Appel has performed a valuable service in conceiving and carrying out the lecture course on the operas presented by the Russian Grand Opera Company during its visit to Boston.

It was a case for quick action. A considerable number of unfamiliar operas were announced for presentation; the Music Division of the Library has always been a purveyor of information in the field of opera, and Mr. Appel rose to the occasion. He secured seven able speakers, each a musical authority, obtained the cooperation of the Division of University Extension, and, presto! the course was an accomplished fact. Each lecture was given at least a day in advance of the opera to which it was devoted; the five-thirty hour was happily chosen; the people came, and were pleased. Congratulations!

LIBRARY LIFE welcomes the remarkable series of articles by Mr. James Ernest King, which are appearing currently in the *Boston Transcript*, under the happy title, "The Thirty-One Branches of Boston's Book-Tree." These articles, which are finely illustrated, will introduce the Branch libraries to thousands who have had no comprehensive notion of them. It is safe to say that every member of the staff will learn something new from

Mr. King's lively presentation of his subject. A review of the series will appear in the next number of *LIBRARY LIFE*.

CALENDAR.

The enterprising attendant watches the bulletin boards. Lectures are announced in our Quarterly Bulletin, and on bulletin boards in the vestibule and beside the post-card counter in the main corridor; exhibitions of artists and galleries in the Fine Arts Department; musical programs in the Brown Music Room; and general library news is posted at the Blagden Street entrance.

In addition to these bulletins, "This Week in Boston" (Periodical Room); the "Guest Guide," and the "Harvard Gazette" (Newspaper Room), all contain timely announcements.

A new leaf for a New Year. In the interest of prompt publication, all matter intended for *LIBRARY LIFE* should be in the hands of the editors by the fifth of the month. Except by way of announcement, no news arising later than the tenth can be given attention in the paper appearing on the fifteenth.

THE LIBRARIAN'S READING.

The following brief extracts are taken from an article on "The Librarian's Reading," by Miss Edith Tobitt, Librarian of the Omaha Public Library, in the *Library Journal* for December 1; the whole article is worth reading.

The librarian's reading habit . . . means having an open mind and a willingness to read anything that is put into print.

How may a right reading habit be acquired? It cannot be given to us by others. Others may help, but if we haven't it in us to read, others can do but little for us. We can attain the reading habit only by reading and reading.

If our object is to read much, we must master the mechanics of reading.

. . . Natural curiosity and love of adventure should make it possible for us to set aside all handicaps to rapid reading.

Librarians know not only that they should read, but *what* they should read. We cannot advise the public if we are unable to select well for ourselves.

Our reading will show what we are.

All those who are interested in the use of United States Government documents should see the article headed "Better documents service to libraries," in the *Library Journal* for November 15. It is in essence a report of progress, written by Miss Mary A. Hartwell, who is in the office of the U. S. Superintendent of Public Documents.

The plans of the Superintendent have special meaning for the Boston Public Library because of the work of our own Government Documents Office. Among other things proposed is a new bulletin, to carry on the series begun by Miss Guerrier, called *News Notes on Government Publications*, which last year formed a regular supplement to *LIBRARY LIFE*. Miss Hartwell says: "The publication is to be issued weekly, and will contain pertinent information concerning some of the most popular and interesting of Government publications. It will not have more than four pages a week, octavo size."

As *News Notes* was four pages monthly, this means a distinct increase in the amount of information that will be supplied. We shall greet the new bulletin with a hearty welcome.

NEWS NOTES.

The Rev. Alexander Mann, D.D., the honored President of the Library Trustees, has accepted the election to the Episcopal bishopric of Pittsburgh, announced in our last issue. His departure will be a severe loss to the Library in many ways, not merely official, but personal. The employees of the Library have found him a sympathetic friend. His presence has added distinction to our Library gath-

erings; his counsel and support have been of aid in many directions; his geniality and good humor have been an unfailing source of encouragement. Both Library and city will miss him.

The heartiest good wishes of the Library staff go with Dr. Mann to his new position, to which he brings a large and ripe equipment. We are confident that his years as Bishop of Pittsburgh will be full of honor and high achievement.

Two recent temporary appointments are of interest. On December 1, Miss Edith F. Pendleton became Acting Librarian of the Tyler Street Reading Room, and Miss Mary Golden, as Acting Librarian, took Miss Pendleton's place at the Andrew Square Reading Room.

At the same date, Miss Alice V. Stevens, of the Branch Department, was created Chief of the Branch Issue Division of the Central Library.

That staunch friend of the Library, Cavaliere L. Melano Rossi, has just supplemented his generous gifts to the North End Branch by a valuable Christmas present — the eighteen volumes on the political and literary history of Italy, written by a "Società di professori" (Milan, 1897-).

The Rossi Dramatic Club, of the North End Branch, has recently changed its name to the L. Melano Rossi Club.

Mrs. Frank McGeough, formerly Miss Catherine Casey of the Issue Department, has a daughter Mary, born on November 29. Mrs. McGeough now resides in Roslindale.

A list of maps of New England, its counties and towns, exclusive of Boston, has been compiled by Mr. John Murdoch, and is expected to appear in the forthcoming Quarterly Bulletin.

In the *House Beautiful* for December, Miss Alice M. Jordan has a delightful article, with the title "On the Christmas Book Tables for the Children."

Miss Jordan reviews some twenty-two recent books and gives a suggestion of the flavor of each; the article has six illustrations.

It is pleasant to announce that fifty members of the Library staff are attending Professor Rogers's Friday-morning lectures on American Literature, and that nineteen junior assistants are hard at work in the Tuesday class in Reference Work. For those taking Professor Rogers's course, the Library has purchased an ample supply of text-books in the field of American Literature.

It is announced that on Christmas Eve Mr. David Schromm, of the Engineer Department, will be married to Miss Veronica M. Richardson of Mansfield. Mr. Schromm's associates extend congratulations to the couple and wish them all good luck.

Frank R. Harris, formerly on the editorial staff of *LIBRARY LIFE*, and of its predecessor, *The Bugle*, is now a member of the class of 1926 at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. At the recent class election he came within a very few votes of being chosen vice-president of his class.

A revised edition of the Rules and Regulations of the Library, embodying numerous minor changes, has just been published.

The next annual conference of the American Library Association is to be held in Hot Springs, Arkansas, April 2 to 28, 1923. The date is set early, in deference to the climate — or to its effect on those who go to the conference. We regret that Hot Springs is so far away; happy the few who can attend from this corner of the United States!

Heard at Tyler Street:

"You know what B. P. L. stands for?"

"No."

"Best People Living, that's what!"

EXHIBITIONS.

The Mothercraft Exhibit described on another page is only the most striking of a series of unusual displays which have enlivened the Fine Arts Exhibition Room this fall. First, in October, came the remarkable exhibition of Negro Progress; then followed the Railroad display, showing the growth and development of New England railroads as centered in Boston. This was accompanied by memorials of the great Boston Fire of 1872, and was succeeded by Miss Eva T. Purdy's models of playhouse stages, miniature theatres, and scenes from various dramas by leading exponents of stagecraft. The models, some forty in number, were effectively lighted, and, at a proper distance, gave a real illusion. A number of them were the work of students in local art schools.

The Mothercraft show will be followed in December by displays illustrating the White Mountains (Dec. 11); the work of Luca della Robbia (Dec. 18); and the art of Stained Glass (Dec. 26).

Those in charge of the health exhibition are anxious to promote the use of the Christmas seals.



Stamp out Tuberculosis.

TEN-BOOK LISTS.

The "Ten-book lists," published as supplements to the weekly bulletin, have attracted wide attention and appear to be of real use; the series reached its forty-sixth number with the issue of December 9. A book is always an acceptable present, and these lists, covering a wide range of subjects,

should often aid in the selection of a gift pleasing to the taste of the person favored, whether on birthday, graduation, Christmas, engagement, or wedding.

The attempt is made to have each list prepared by a person specially qualified. It may be of interest to the staff to know who is responsible for the various lists published since last spring. Those on Wild flowers and ferns, Vacation haunts: Cape Cod, Camping out, Swimming, Freshwater fishing, Photography for amateurs, Canoeing, were prepared by John Murdoch; Radio, Automobiles, by G. S. Maynard; The Passion Play at Oberammergau, Vacation haunts: Northern New England, Golf, Christopher Columbus, Football, by F. H. Chase; Recent musical biographies, by E. Carolyn Merrill; Play and playgrounds, Aids to storytelling, Halloween, Thanksgiving, Books on children's reading, Child training, by Alice M. Jordan; Recent biographies, Shakespeare on the stage, by Mary A. Tenney; Graphic arts, Recent books on painting, by W. H. Chenery; Stories of college life, The Near East, by L. E. Taylor; The symphony concert, The opera, The Russian opera, by R. G. Appel.

CLEMENCEAU AT THE LIBRARY.

M. Clemenceau's visit to Copley Square on November 23 was like a step back into war time. In those days we craned our necks over the staircase to catch a glimpse of Viviani, or pattered through the rain for a sight of the pointed top of Papa Joffre's red cap, or balanced on the catalogue room window-sills while Geraldine Farrar sang the Star Spangled Banner on the Library steps every time a five-thousand-dollar Liberty Bond was sold. The air was thick with famous men and martial music. But after 1918 these things ceased to be.

On this 23d of November our largest flags were hung out. Towards the middle of the afternoon rumors that

"The Tiger" had arrived buzzed about our desks. Frequent sallies to the front door by the Library force *en bloc* had to be repulsed by high authority. Two thousand school children waving French flags swarmed in front of the building. The band played; the children sang; the waiting crowds cheered and danced up and down to keep warm. It grew dark.

Finally, with a rush of mounted troops clattering into the Square, came M. Clemenceau, well out of sight in a covered automobile. We saw again the gleam of drawn swords, recognized the hats of steel, the banners, the khaki, and listened to the Marseillaise. The camera men set off the flashlights; horses plunged; the melody of "John Brown's body" filled the air. In a few moments the whole spectacle melted into darkness.

C. H.

NEW PERIODICALS.

The following list contains the titles of the periodicals added to the Central Library list, beginning July 1, 1922:

American Meteorological Society.
Bulletin.
American Philatelist.
American Society for Steel Treating. Transactions.
American Welding Society. Proceedings.
Antiquaries Journal, The.
Banta's Greek Exchange.
Bodleian Quarterly Record.
Book, Het.
Canadian Historical Review, The.
Crisis, The.
Family, The.
Foreign Affairs.
Gregg Writer.
Harvard Business Review.
Jewish Woman, The.
Modern Language Journal, The.
Novelty News, The.
Patent Office Society, Washington, D. C. Journal.
Photodramatist, The.
Power Plant Engineering.
Popular Radio.
Radio Broadcast.
Red Book Magazine, The.
Revue de l'Institut de Sociologie.

Round Table, The.
Smart Set, The.
Social.
Western Architect, The.
Woodworker, The.
Writer's Monthly, The.

THE STURGES SALE.

The sale of the library of the late Henry Cady Sturges at the Anderson Galleries in New York attracted a notable group of book-buyers to its sessions, which lasted continuously, day and evening, from November 20 to 22. Miss Macurdy was there to represent our Library; among the other competitors were Dr. A. S. W. Rosenbach, of Philadelphia, Mr. Lathrop C. Harper, of New York, and emissaries from many of the larger libraries of the country.

Our purchases lay chiefly in the field of American literature suitable for the Artz Collection, such as first editions of three of the dramas of William Dunlap. The early Massachusetts imprints included "The demos in council; or 'Bijah in Pandemonium, being a sweep of the lyre in close imitation of Milton," a volume of anonymous poems printed in Boston in 1799, and Lucius M. Sargent's "Caelii symposii aenigmata," Boston, 1807.

This collection of American literature was said to be the largest that has yet appeared in the auction room. Among the items offered the greatest rarity was a copy of William Cullen Bryant's satire, "The Embargo," written at the age of thirteen, which went to Dr. Rosenbach for \$1625; he accounts it as one of but six copies in existence. A complete examination of the catalogue of the sale, consisting of nearly 2,000 items, revealed the fact that this Library possessed 1,469 out of the 1,958 titles listed. The sale brought over one hundred additional volumes to our collection.

NEIGHBORHOOD GROUP.

The librarians of the Newton Neighborhood Group met, by invitation of Mr. Belden, in the Staff Lecture Room

of the Library on the morning of Wednesday, December 6. Mr. G. W. Lee presented a paper on sponsors in library work, followed by Miss Edith Guerrier, who spoke informally, making a comparison of European librarians with those of America.

Mr. Lee referred in detail to the various sponsorships which the Extension Service Committee (meeting regularly in the Trustees' Room of the Boston Public Library on Tuesday afternoons) has been establishing each week, beginning August 1, 1922. He then referred to the somewhat novel plan of having students assist the sponsors in such topics as come within the scope of their academic work. He pointed to the date of December 19, when a general meeting is to be held for exhibit and discussion of subjects reported upon by the sponsors or students, and extended a general invitation to come to this meeting. As the underlying idea of the Extension Service is to provide a follow-up through sponsorship, it is likely that the essentials of Mr. Lee's remarks will become part and parcel of the bulletin of the Service which is to be published in loose-leaf form and kept in the Boston Public Library for reference purposes.

Miss Guerrier gave interesting personal touches in telling of her experiences in France, Belgium and England during the past summer, of which she had spoken more extensively at the meeting of the Special Libraries Association at the Boston Athenaeum. From Mr. Hedicar of London Miss Guerrier gleaned some particularly interesting facts and suggestions, notably concerning the plan for a library of political science which would have one-man offices in various districts. She was specially impressed by the information services in Ghent and Bruges, and with the convenient booklets for the traveller published in these cities, of which she passed round samples for inspection. She described the method by which the King's Stationery Office sells public documents over the counter in London, which is so different from our method at Washington. She then described the Information

Office of the Boston Public Library, with its valuable collection of directories and its handling of United States public documents.

At the close of the speaking, the meeting adjourned to the Staff Room, where coffee and chocolate were served for guests of the day who had brought the rest of their luncheon. Adjournment from luncheon was for a general inspection of the Library, guided by Mr. Chase.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The regular monthly meeting was held November 27, at the Boston Athenaeum, in the beautiful elliptical Trustees' Room, adorned with portraits of eminent Americans of the eighteenth and early nineteenth centuries.

An unusually large number were present. Many new members were introduced and many others were voted in. Mr. Armistead presented a report for the committee on "Societies' Address Lists," and submitted letters on the questions involved, from the H. W. Wilson Co., and from Miss Rebecca B. Rankin, President of the Special Libraries Association of America. There is wide interest in the problem of keeping up to date in a single list the addresses of national societies of all kinds, which now sometimes require wide search. It was voted to refer the project to the national association.

Miss Chie Hirano, of the Museum of Fine Arts, gave an interesting talk on the Chinese manuscripts in European libraries, with special reference to the western Chinese manuscripts of the seventh to ninth centuries, discovered by Sir Aurel Stein, and in large part now preserved in the British Museum and in the Bibliothèque Nationale, Paris. Miss Edith Guerrier, of the Boston Public Library, spoke entertainingly on her experiences of last summer in foreign libraries, especially those of Paris and Brussels.

After the meeting, the members were shown the Athenaeum and its

chief treasures, by Mr. Charles K. Bolton, the Librarian. Much interest was exhibited in the theological works presented to King's Chapel in the last years of the seventeenth century, and in the books from the library of George Washington.

The December meeting of the Association will be omitted. The members are invited to attend the meetings of the Extension Service Committee at the Boston Public Library on Tuesday, December 19.

STAFF CLUB.

The November meeting of the Staff Club might fittingly have been called "North End Night," for the members of the North End Branch contributed generously to the success of the evening. We are indebted to the librarian, Miss Mary Curley, for the pleasure of hearing her attractive friend, Miss Mae Wiles, of New York, render Booth Tarkington's "Mister Antonio." Her presentation of the varied characters was irresistible in its truth and humor.

Miss Olympia Cella, of the Branch staff, entertained the Club during the intermissions between the acts of the play, with groups of English and Italian songs. Miss Annie Heiman, with an experience developed by many famous North End parties, was a most active member of the Hospitality Committee, and had as able lieutenants Miss Helen L. Morrissey and Miss Cecilia Nazzaro.

Miss Katrina Sather, of the Committee, appeared looking as if she had obeyed the oft-read injunction to "Do your Christmas shopping early." In one of the many boxes which she carried was a large and delectable cake, which, Miss Josephine Day declared, was worthy of being placed in a glass case in the Fine Arts Exhibition Room. Many thanks, and the Staff Club's compliments, to "Miss Sather's married sister." General merriment followed the distribution of the surprise walnuts and special licenses furnished by Mr. Lucien E. Taylor, Chairman of

the Hospitality Committee. Has he disclosed the nature of the license which was later presented to him?

The artistic arrangements for the collation, directed by Miss Mary Toy, carried out the November coloring of brown and yellow.

The Club will hold its Christmas Party on Wednesday evening, Dec. 27, at 7.45 o'clock. Let every member come, and make the party a merry one. To judge from the gay announcements, the committee is planning a wonderful time; everyone is expected to bring a "little gift for Santa's pack."

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The Relief Committee reports that Miss Morris, of the Bindery, Mr. O'Neil, of the Brighton Branch, and Mr. Zittel, of the Engineer Department, are still absent from their duties; and that Mr. John Murdoch, of the Catalogue Department, absent since November 22, is improving.

The Constitution Committee, which has been steadily at work for a number of months, hopes to make a final report early in the new year. The committee, which consists of Messrs. Blaisdell, Buckley, Chase, Gallagher, James J. Kelley, Rosenberg, and Taylor (chairman), has considered the welfare of the Association from every conceivable angle; it will propose measures for improved administration, possible economies, and new sources of revenue. The changes and additions will be printed and sent to every member before the revised Constitution comes up for action. The attention and approval of all are bespoken.

The Entertainment Committee of the Association announces that the date of the annual winter party has been set for Friday evening, February 9. The attractions will include whist, dancing, prizes, and refreshments. Admission will be fifty cents. Everybody in the Library should come, prepared for a good time, and should bring as many friends as possible. Further details next month.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume II, No. 4

January 15, 1923

CONTENTS.

THE BRANCHES BLOSSOM	29	NEWS NOTES	37
PENSION QUESTION BOX	31	GOOD TIMES COMING!	38
CHRISTMAS AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY	32	LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS	39
CHRISTMAS AT THE BRANCHES	32	SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY CON- FERENCE	40
OSCAR ALBERT BIERSTADT	33	AMERICAN ASSOCIATION	40
EXHIBITIONS	34	EXTENSION SERVICE AND SPONSORSHIP	41
THE PERIODICALS	34	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION	42
EDITORIALS	36	STAFF CLUB	42
THOMAS J. O'NEIL	37	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	43

THE BRANCHES BLOSSOM.

There is a certain type of so-called realistic writer whose idea of a public library is a dingy place, sprinkled with Silence placards and peopled with shabby-genteel attendants who would rather you didn't muss up the books. Now comes Mr. James Ernest King, of the *Boston Transcript*, with four ringing articles about the branches of the Boston Public Library, and dissipates the fog through which so many of the general public regard libraries in general. He shows us the library as it really is, giving not just service to the community but neighborliness as well. The branches keep eternal open house.

A neighbor "runs in" for a recipe for English plum pudding, we find, or a suggestion for a note of congratulation to an engaged couple, or even for ideas in dressmaking. Men, not only scholars, but regular "he-men," as the movies have it, come to the branches for books about sheet-metal working, engineering, electricity. Teachers who are taking extra courses use the reference books, and doctors interested in science. To one of the branches comes a little boy, who has studied there every evening of his life since he en-

tered school. The South End Branch serves as a club-room for men of the lodging house district. The men may fall asleep over their papers, of course, but they wake up finally, and then sheer boredom may drive them to open a book, which in turn may open up new worlds to them.

THE CHILDREN.

Anyone who has ever served in the children's room of a branch library during the "afternoon rush" should read Mr. King's report of that exciting time, though it bring on acute homesickness. What do people in Central, at their busiest, know of working under pressure and at top speed? Let them try to handle a children's room ninety feet long, (the length of the one in East Boston), seething with juvenility in search of a "hist'ry book — the Blue Fairy book — a book about Boston." Mr. King marvels at a packed children's room with shelves stripped bare by eager readers, and marvels, too, that there should be order, and contentment, and so little noise. It is an old story to some of us, but it continues to be thrilling.

It is through the children that libraries will be used to best advantage. Though the children come to "start

something," at least they have come, and of their own accord. Then, it is up to the librarian to lead them into the paths of righteousness and reading. The children, in turn, introduce the library to their parents. There is an instance in point which Mr. King cites. At the West Roxbury Branch library, an attendant noticed that one child kept borrowing a certain history of the United States time after time.

"What's the matter," she asked, finally, "Do you really need this book so often in your school work?"

The youngster explained: "No, but you see, I'm reading it aloud to my mother and father, and I have to say each paragraph in German before I read it out to them in English."

Americanization is part of the work at a branch library.

NOISY QUARTERS.

Mr. King offers a shrewd comment on the undesirability of housing branches in municipal buildings, where "the pounding of a basketball game overhead was incessant dull thunder, and where sometimes in the calm eventide three pianos play all at once, a discordant trio, in the gymnasium above, in the basement beneath, and in the public room next beyond the plaster of the library's partitioning." Such a condition does not make for the scholarly quiet one expects in a library. In rebuttal, Miss Kelley, librarian in a municipal building, declares that such a location has its advantages, as many discover the library who have come to the municipal building to make tax payments or to register for voting.

Many people do not realize the social life of the branches. There are ever so many clubs connected with them. North End has charming rooms to house its various clubs. Another interesting club is located at Mt. Pleasant Reading Room. To qualify for membership one must display clean hands (the "pure heart" one takes for granted at a branch!) and then one is entitled to use a special case of extra illustrated books. That club has saved hundreds of dollars for the city of Boston. All holidays are celebrated

appropriately in the branches; there are bunnies for Easter, flags on the Fourth of July, witches' caldrons at Halloween, and, generally, a Christmas tree. Then, of course, there is the weekly story hour, which the children love so. In the South End Branch, the story-teller stands between two armored knights, a loan from the Museum of Fine Arts. Think of the inspiration, if one were telling about Joan of Arc or the Adventures of a Connecticut Yankee at the Court of King Arthur!

HUMAN TOUCHES.

Mr. King's articles are crammed with human interest. Human interest, one sees, is all in the day's work with a branch assistant. The most touching story of all is about the blind man who comes daily to the Roxbury Crossing Reading Room, where one of the attendants reads his letters to him and answers them. Also, by his special request, they read aloud to him each day some passage from the Bible. At Tyler Street, one finds, there is an assistant who scolds the children, when it is necessary, in Arabic. It is less embarrassing for the children, and more effective, as that is their mothers' way. Mr. King mentions, too, the children who come to the South Boston Branch with the key to their tenements about their necks; left in charge of the house by parents who are at work all day long.

At Readville is the "thirty-second" branch. It is the Phillips Brooks Memorial Library, and was founded as a tribute to the great preacher, whose last sermon was given there. The spot on which the building stands has further historical interest, as it was part of Camp Meigs, one of the largest civil war camps in New England. Over the door of the reading room is a civil-war rifle. Another thing it contains, unique among library furnishings, is a handsome grand piano, gift of Governor Wolcott.

Mr. King brings to his write-up of the branches an interest and enthusiasm which are contagious. As one reads the articles, one wishes to make

an immediate tour of inspection of the branches, even though one know them well. How Mr. King must have interested the general public! There must be innumerable people who have read the *Saturday Transcript*, then hurried to the nearest branch library, which hitherto had been unknown territory to them. If one only could have a census of people who have come into branch libraries bearing invisible cards: "Introduced by Mr. James Ernest King of the *Boston Transcript*."

M. E. P.

PENSION QUESTION BOX.

III.

How long may an employee who is already seventy years old postpone entering the retirement system without danger to his prospect of a pension?

ANSWER.

An employee seventy years of age who wishes to remain one year longer in actual service, but who does not want to forfeit his rights under the Pension Act, must observe the following conditions:—He must, within 60 days after Feb. 1, 1923, notify the Retirement Board that he does *not* wish to join the system. He must then, before Feb. 1, 1924, write to the Retirement Board saying he wishes to revoke his former action and *does* wish to join the system. If he does not join within the twelve months, he may stay until Feb. 1, 1926, but he thereby forfeits all claim to a pension.

IV.

If an employee, who has postponed joining the retirement system, with the intention of entering on Feb. 1, 1924, is incapacitated before joining, what claim has he or she on a pension or a disability allowance?

ANSWER.

Under the circumstances, an employee, having elected not to join the system, has no claim whatever on its benefactions.

V.

When will the actual deductions from salary begin — February 1 or sixty days later?

ANSWER.

In order to avoid the possibility of excluding any one from the benefits of the system, the Retirement Board will make deductions from all salaries, beginning February 1.

VI.

If one decides to postpone entrance into the retirement system, how will he obtain refund of the deductions made before his notification reaches the Retirement Board?

ANSWER.

The Board is planning to refund promptly all deductions made from the salaries of those who postpone entrance to the system.

VII.

What happens to an employee who becomes a chronic invalid or is otherwise disabled so that he has to give up work before reaching the age of sixty?

ANSWER.

Provision for "Ordinary Disability" is a very unusual responsibility for a pension system to assume, yet the system does this in the case of all who have been city employees fifteen years or more. Under this provision, should an employee become disabled from any cause whatsoever, whether or not associated with his work, he is entitled to the annuity which his actual deductions would purchase and to such additional compensation as would make up a pension equal to 90 per cent. of what he would have received had he remained in the service until 60 years of age at the same rate of pay he was receiving when overtaken with disability.

What this means to any unfortunate may best be understood simply by applying the provision to one of our own colleagues. A young lady, already sixteen years in the service, and suffering ordinary disability, which may be permanent, who, were she to remain in the service until sixty years of age, would have some forty-three years of service to her credit, might now retire February 1, 1923, with nearly half-pay, since her long term of service would entitle her to half-pay at least under the "prior service" proviso. This case,

by the way, is not hypothetical, but actual.

The conditions to be complied with in such cases are that such a beneficiary shall report once a year to the board of medical examiners until sixty years of age, to verify continuance of the disability. In case of disappearance of disability, if the retirement originally had been asked for by the head of the department in which the beneficiary is employed, he may be returned to his old position at the rate of pay prevailing at the time of retirement. If retirement had been at the request of the employee himself, however, this does not apply.

CHRISTMAS AT THE CENTRAL LIBRARY.

What made Christmas Christmas for the Library staff, in the first place, was Mr. Belden's beautiful wreath, with its greeting, which was placed just inside the employees' entrance. From that point the Christmas spirit spread all over the building. In the Information Office was a wreath and a huge red candle, which was lighted Christmas Eve. In the Children's Room, the decorations were specially delightful; Santa and his reindeers visited a little red and white house, buried in snow-drifts and surrounded by fir trees, and in the fireplace of the Room, two little tinsel-decked trees were set. There was also a beautiful display of Christmas pictures and books, which the grown-ups seemed to enjoy as much as the children.

In Stack Four, the junior members of the Issue Department had their usual tree. Some of the girls reached the Library before eight o'clock in order to trim the tree and adjust the tiny electric lights. Mr. Belden was invited to inspect the tree and found it charming. Then candy was distributed and a group of girls sang "O come, all ye faithful." Later, Miss Eleanor Schlafer served as the Santa Claus of the occasion and distributed gifts among her appreciative co-workers. There were useful gifts and, of course, many joke gifts which hit home and

occasioned much hilarity among the recipients. There was also a merry party in the Branch Department, with a tree and refreshments.

Later in the morning, there was a "grab" in the Staff Lecture Room. After this, the girls sang carols, Miss Doyle accompanying on the piano. At eleven o'clock, a group of twenty-five library choristers, under the leadership of Mr. Richard G. Appel, chief of the Music Division, sang carols on the main staircase. Among those chosen were the old favorites, "Good King Wenceslas," "The First Nowell," "Adeste Fideles," and "Silent Night." Gathered in the hall below was a very appreciative audience made up of the general public and members of the Staff.

On Sunday evening, December 17, under the auspices of the Boston Branch of the Dickens Fellowship, a public reading of Dickens's "Christmas Carol," by Professor Walter Bradley Tripp, was held in the Lecture Hall.

M. E. P.

CHRISTMAS AT THE BRANCHES.

At practically every one of the thirty-one branches and reading rooms of the Library, the presence of Christmas was recognized in some way. At most of the libraries there were exhibitions of pictures appropriate to the season; at a number of them Christmas stories were told; many of them displayed Christmas books in one way or another; many were decorated with Christmas greens; and there were trees at Orient Heights, Tyler Street, the North End, East Boston and South Boston.

The West Roxbury Branch had an exhibition illustrating the origin of various Christmas customs, such as the use of greens, the Christmas tree, the Yule Log and the Christmas dinner. There were two trees at this Branch, and a realistic Santa Claus who beamed down upon the Children's Room from above the stacks. At the story hour Mrs. Jamison rendered

Dickens's "Christmas Carol" to about two hundred children.

The City Point Reading Room was decorated with holly and evergreens and had candles burning from four to nine o'clock on Christmas Eve. The bulletin board had a typewritten copy of Milton's "Ode on the Morning of Christ's Nativity" as a central feature.

At the Charlestown Branch there was a special effort to create a Christmas atmosphere. An entertainment was given to the public, at which Miss May Duff presented Dickens' own cutting of his "Christmas Carol," and Miss Cecilia Tint, an assistant at the Branch, played a number of Christmas songs and hymns.

But no library in the system had such prolonged festivities as did the North End Branch, where during the week preceding Christmas each of the Library clubs, as well as the Staff, had a Christmas party. The Little Folks Club, whose members are girls between the ages of eight and ten years, had perhaps the most realistic Christmas, however, for Santa Claus came down the chimney with his pack and presented to each child a stocking filled with candy and a small toy, after which ice cream and cake were served. The little girls gave a play, "Their Christmas Gift."

It was interesting to see the expressions on the faces of the children when the lights were turned on, and there was Santa Claus actually emerging from the fireplace as if he had really come down the chimney. He seemed very real to them, until one bright youngster exclaimed, "Santa Claus has women's shoes on," which was quite true, for "he" was none other than Miss Cella. This club has as its director Miss Nazzaro, of the Branch staff.

OSCAR ALBERT BIERSTADT.

Oscar Albert Bierstadt, custodian of Bates Hall from 1899 to 1916, died at his home, 12 Remington Street, Cambridge, on Thursday, July 13, 1922. Mr. Bierstadt was born in Boston, July 23, 1850, and was the son of Edward

and Adeline Rix Bierstadt. Except for a few months spent at Phillips Academy, Andover, he was educated in New Bedford. He was a great student of languages, being familiar with Latin, French, German, Spanish, Dutch, and Italian; he was especially proficient in Dutch, and, in collaboration with Miss Ruth Putnam, translated into English P. J. Blok's five-volume "History of the people of the Netherlands," (New York, 1898-1912). He was also the translator of Neumarck's "The public debts of Europe" (New York, 1888), and of a series of French stories, published in 1891, under the title "The sign-board and other stories."

Mr. Bierstadt's library career began July 1, 1873, in the Astor Library, which later became a part of the New York Public Library; here he remained until January 31, 1899, when he was called to a position in the Public Library of the City of Boston. At the time of his resignation the Trustees of the New York Public Library adopted the following resolution:

Resolved, That the Trustees of the New York Public Library, in accepting the resignation of Mr. Bierstadt, do so with regret and hereby express their high appreciation of the long, faithful, and intelligent services rendered by him to the Library.

Mr. Bierstadt entered upon his duties in the Boston Public Library, as custodian of Bates Hall, on February 1, 1899; this position he held until April 26, 1916, when ill health obliged him to resign. From some time before his resignation until his death Mr. Bierstadt was a great sufferer, although almost up to the last he continued his literary work. He was by temperament a real scholar, as well as a very capable and courteous official; his absence from the Library has been a great loss to the institution. All who knew him will remember with gratitude his resourceful willingness to help and his unflinching courtesy.

He leaves a widow and a son, Albert Morton Bierstadt, Harvard, 1912, who was for some time an instructor in the University of Wisconsin; in the fall of the year 1922 he became assistant professor of English in the University of Maine.

F. H. C.

EXHIBITIONS.

"The most splendid colour decoration the world ever saw, since no other material, neither silk nor gold, and no opaque color laid on with a brush, can compare with translucent glass," wrote Mr. Henry Adams of the glass of the Cathedral of Chartres.

Stained glass window making, past and present, was graphically set forth in the Art Department Exhibition Room of the Library during the two weeks beginning December 26. The craft of the artist of to-day was shown in its various stages from black and white cartoons and water-color sketches to the completed product in the form of medallions hung in the windows. Of the earlier work, chiefly of the twelfth and thirteenth centuries, there were reproductions in water-color of medallions and windows in the cathedrals of Bourges, Tours, and Poitiers, while, from the Library's own material in illustrated books, were notable examples from Chartres, with a portion of the "Tree of Jesse" window in colors. For the purpose of displaying entire windows in miniature, there was a device in which the glass is mounted in a six-sided stand illuminated from within by a constant glow of light.

When you read of the magical effect that the sight of one of these preëminently beautiful examples of stained glass has had upon the observer it is difficult to visualize from this exhibition what that effect might be. The whole story of the Bible is told in the glass. Sunshine sparkles, water flows, grass flourishes green before your eyes, great saints wrapped in gorgeous robes smile gently down with the benign and placid expression accurately keyed to the sanctuary. There is a message in all this, it is said, and you must wait until the window makes known its message before you can appreciate its beauty. Ideally, these windows should be seen from within a room from which all other sources of light than that through the colored glass have been withdrawn. But such an opportunity rarely comes.

A REVELATION.

You must wait for it, — in this particular exhibition in the Library, — till late at night, till the last individual one of the reluctant public has been uprooted from his chair and persuaded to the door, till the last gong for closing has sounded its warning ring, and the last weary assistant has stamped into his rubbers and gone flying down the stairs and you are alone in the deserted exhibition room. Suddenly, without a preliminary quiver, the lights go out all over the Library. An enveloping blackness, thick and silent, is all round you and in the midst of it glows the lighted hexagonal stand. There, shining at you through the dark, is a rose window in miniature, and little pointed arches and the gleam of reds and blues and, looking at them, you may believe at last that glory shines upon us through stained glass.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS.

Preceding this exhibition came views of the White Mountains, followed in turn by photographs of the work of Luca della Robbia, sculptor, innovator in the production of the glazed enamel which bears his name, famous for his representations of the Madonna and Infant Saviour, the bambini, or swaddled children, and the dancing figures of the Singing Gallery. Together with these were shown, in the days before Christmas, colored prints of the Holy Mother and Child by many of the great artists.

The dates for the forthcoming exhibitions of the month are as follows: January 8, Early American Arts; January 22, Egypt and Drama; February 5, Mountains of America; February 12, George Washington. C. H.

THE PERIODICALS.

The issue of the *Library Journal* for December 15 contains a timely article on the library of the League of Nations at Geneva. It is written by the librarian, Miss Florence Wilson, whose account of the work of the League seems rather glowing, in view of recent

events in the Ruhr district. But the workings of the library itself are ably described, and much of the information is quite new and entertaining. Few of us have realized that there are at Geneva over three hundred permanent secretaries, of all nationalities represented in the League; the library staff is similarly made up from many nations.

In the same issue the librarian of the Savannah Public Library, Mr. Seymour Thompson, writes on "Librarianship—a Profession or a Business?" This is in reply to Mr. Ferguson's recent article on "Humanizing the A. L. A.," and is full of good things. He opposes Mr. Ferguson's idea of "humanizing," remarking that "once we have accepted the 'big business' view that plain money will do anything, we are on our way to the view that plain money is the only thing that is worth while." He believes that it is well for librarians to stand just a little aloof from the thickest of the modern struggle for life, to view the world with a little detachment.

Miss Hunt, of the Children's Department, Brooklyn Public Library, writes on "Recruiting for Children's Librarians." She advocates highly trained service, rewarded by high salaries, placing the librarian on the same plane as the teacher. She advocates training schools for children's librarians in every state of the Union.

Turning to the January 1st number of the same periodical we find five or six articles of helpful interest. The number opens with the first section of the annual review of reference books, covering every field with very careful notes on new material, revised editions and year-books.

Miss Rebecca Rankin, president of the Special Libraries Association, tells of the various projects under way in that body.

The work of the A. L. A. in 1922 is outlined in a brief article. The membership has increased to 5,700, and the activities are many.

On page 33 there is a reprint of the classified bibliography of science found in the four volumes of Thomson's

"Outline of Science," an extremely valuable list. It may be said in passing that there are included all the important books on relativity, aviation, oceanography and psychic science, in addition to those on the more familiar subjects.

On page 46 appears a list of photo-plays now current in the theatres which are based on either books or the spoken drama, a most useful compilation.

Mr. Chalmers Hadley, librarian of the Denver Public Library, opens the January issue of *Public Libraries* with an article called "Outside of Working Hours." We cannot agree with some of Mr. Hadley's ideas, such as this:—"Workers in educational and ethical fields are marked people in their communities and there are activities, doubtless innocent in themselves, which may be taboo to them." Isn't this the 'de-humanizing' of librarians that we read about recently? However, the article is a readable one, with many sound points.

On page 43 appears a condensed report of the work of the Library of Congress for 1922. The appropriation for the year was less than that for 1921, and requests for extension of library service were either not granted at all or at reduced salaries. The Library now contains about 3,000,000 books and pamphlets.

Mr. Mencken should take delight in the following paragraph, for which we assume that Mr. Putnam is not responsible: "The writings of Henry James presented to the library . . . is notable for the completeness of its representation of first and later editions, *both in American and English.*" The italics are ours.

H. W. M.

Through the courtesy of the Children's Museum there is at present an interesting exhibit of birds in the showcase of the Children's Room. The birds are all well-known in this part of the country during the winter months; among them we find the Robin, the Sparrow, the Chickadee, the Bronzed Grackle and the noisy, but beautiful, Blue Jay.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. II, No. 4.

January 15, 1923

"GROWING BETTER."

The visit of M. Émile Coué has given us all a chance for an indulgent smile; the little Frenchman is so blandly optimistic, and optimists are so thoroughly out of fashion. Any man of sense knows that Coué is wrong; the older generation sees the young folks getting steadily worse, and the young folks, while they are sure that as individuals they are improving, see only discouragement as they look about them.

But institutions have an advantage over human beings; they have a greater power of adaptation to changing conditions, and may well hope for a life steadily increasing in richness and value. In fact, institutions are expected to grow better; something is wrong and abnormal, if they fail to do so. Large bodies move slowly, it is true, and few organisms grow better "in every way" at once; but in some direction — now here, now there — one may look for constant growth, as the institution serves the changing time in various ways.

The annual reports, due this month, give us a chance to see where we have been making progress, where we have been standing still, where we have lost ground. We have not all done the things we hoped to do the past year; but may we not have done something else, even more important, because more immediately adapted to the needs of the day? Not every one of us has, perhaps, been able to make a notable contribution to the advance of the Library; but every one of us has helped

to keep it moving, to give it the momentum which is the first condition of progress. And if we cannot all say, "I did this," we can all take a larger view, and say "The Library of which I am a part did that."

Say not, the struggle nought availeth,
The labour and the wounds are vain,
The enemy faints not, nor faileth,
And as things have been they remain.

If hopes were dupes, fears may be liars;
It may be, in yon smoke concealed,
Your comrades chase e'en now the fliers,
And, but for you, possess the field.

For while the tired waves, vainly breaking,
Seem here no painful inch to gain,
Far back, through creeks and inlets making,
Comes silent, flooding in, the main,

And not by eastern windows only,
When daylight comes, comes in the light,
In front, the sun climbs slow, how slowly,
But westward, look, the land is bright.

We fully believe that the Library is growing better, day by day.

"Let us all sing." The words awake in many of us dim memories of childhood experiences. Nothing does people more good than to sing together; a singing people is a happy and useful people. Mr. Appel has done us all a kindness by starting the custom of carol-singing in the Library.

Mr. King has touched on a very real defect in the quarters occupied by some of the branch libraries, in the noise to which they are exposed from other activities carried on in the same buildings. Quiet is a primary need of every library — just as surely as light, or ventilation, or space for books. The architects of municipal buildings in which branch libraries are to be housed should bear this firmly in mind, in order that the work of the library may not be permanently crippled by the arrangement of the building which the city is erecting for its use.

DR. MANN'S CONSECRATION.

The Reverend Dr. Alexander Mann, President of the Library Trustees, will be consecrated Bishop of Pittsburgh on

January 25th. Mr. Belden has been requested by the Board to represent the Library at the consecration.

The entire staff will rejoice that the Library is to have a representative at this ceremony. Dr. Mann has been our friend and we have for him a personal feeling, which found expression in the gift made to him through the Benefit Association, and in the resolutions adopted at the same time. As he enters on his new work we know that he will not wholly forget his old Library connection.

To the article on the Blossoming of the Branches should be added a word about the illustrations of Mr. King's series. These are numerous and happily chosen for giving an impression of the varied aspects of Branch life. Among them all the greatest triumph is perhaps the admirable group portrait of the Board of Trustees and the Librarian, published with the final article, which was photographed in the Trustees' Room on the morning of Friday, December 8, and published in the *Transcript* for December 16.

The four articles have been reprinted, with their illustrations, in an eight-page sheet. Every employee of the Library should get a copy of this sheet, which may be obtained at the Librarian's office, and should read it through; it is bound to increase not only his intelligence, but his pride in the great institution which we serve.

THOMAS J. O'NEIL.

Mr. Thomas J. O'Neil, janitor of the Brighton Branch, absent since October 12 from the effects of a shock, died January 10 at his home, 12 Bennett St., Brighton. Mr. O'Neil, who entered the service October 3, 1902, had not been in good health for several years. His wife, Laura A. (Boyle) O'Neil, survives him.

Funeral services, a solemn high mass of requiem, were held at St. Columbkille's Church, Brighton, Friday, January 12, at 9 a.m.

NEWS NOTES.

Christmas Eve this year found Mrs. Frances Goddard, long a member of the Ordering Department, once again in Boston, U. S. A. Sitting in the dining room at Trinity Court, she told of her passage across, — the steamer had docked but a few days earlier in the week, — of her fourteen anguished days at sea, of how much she still liked England, of how bad the English food was, how detestable the climate, etc., and how she longed to be back there. She said nothing about what a good place Boston is, but perhaps that is because it is home.

The week beginning January 21 has been designated as National Drama Week. The Library will observe the week by a display of dramatic material in the Fine Arts Exhibition Room; by a lecture on "Shakespeare in the twentieth century," to be given on Sunday afternoon, the 21st, by Professor E. Charlton Black; and by the publication of an appropriate ten-book list.

The librarian of the Upham's Corner Branch and as many of the staff as could be spared had dinner together at the Adams House on Tuesday, January 2. Everyone present received a favor and after the dinner the entire party went to Keith's as the guests of Miss Kelley.

On Friday evening, January 12, the Library Spirit Club was organized in the Staff Room. Full details regarding this new club will appear in the next issue.

Miss Mary Murphy, of the Issue Department, who left the service of the Library on December 16, entered the novitiate of the Sisters of Charity at Convent Station, New Jersey, on December 27. Miss Murphy will be missed by her associates at the Library.

Miss Fanny Goldstein, who was recently transferred from the Tyler Street Reading Room to the West End Branch, was pleasantly surprised at Christmas with the gift of an exquisitely embroidered Madeira dining-table set, accompanied by a card, which read: "In grateful appreciation of your unceasing services to our people; from the Syrian Community."

John F. Sullivan, whose stage name is Fred Allen, is one of the stars in the "Passing Show of 1922," now at the Shubert Theatre. "Johnny," as he was known to the older members of the evening force, was an entertainer *par excellence* even in the years, from 1908 to 1914, when he was employed in the Library.

The staff extends its sincere sympathy to Mr. William McCarthy, of the Shelf Department, whose mother died on December 15. The funeral services were held at St. Columbkille's Church, Brighton, on December 18, at 9 a.m.

On Armistice Day, November 11, a baby daughter, Margaret Robertson, was born to Mr. and Mrs. John Watson of the Bindery. Congratulations.

On December 24, Mr. David Schromm, of the Engineers' Dept., was married, at Mansfield, Mass., to Miss Veronica M. Richardson.

The staff extends its heartfelt sympathy to Miss Eleanor Mulcahy, of the Fine Arts Department, whose mother died on December 30. The funeral services were held on January 1 at the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Jamaica Plain, where a High Mass of Requiem was said by Mgr. Arthur T. Connolly, of the Board of Trustees.

Mr. Leo Dunphy, formerly of the Fine Arts Department, who is study-

ing for the priesthood at St. Joseph's College, Princeton, N. J., visited the Library at Christmas.

Mr. Edward Sullivan, formerly of the Fine Arts Department, who has been seriously ill, is recuperating, and his old friends give him their best wishes for a speedy recovery of his health.

Mr. Orlando C. Davis, librarian of the Waltham Public Library, and Mrs. Davis were entertained at luncheon Tuesday noon, January 9, at the Boston Art Club by a group of Mr. Davis's library friends, representing the Massachusetts Library Club, of which he has for some years been secretary, and the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners. The occasion was Mr. Davis's approaching departure, to become librarian at East Chicago, Indiana. After lunch, Mr. Davis was presented with a pair of beautifully carved bookends, in token of the good wishes of his many friends in library circles.

Mr. Davis is a graduate of Dartmouth College, and has been librarian at Waltham since 1910; during the War he was in A. L. A. service, both in this country and in France.

Benjamin Franklin was Boston's greatest son. January 17 is his birthday. A post-card portrait of him, from the original by Duplessis, in the Trustees' Room, is on sale at the post-card counter.

GOOD TIMES COMING!

BOWLING PARTY.

Tuesday, January 23, another bowling party will be held at the South Boston Yacht Club House. One dollar per person admits to the alleys (8.00 p.m.), the buffet lunch (9.15 p.m.), and a chance at the "classy" prizes, high and low. Every member of the Library staff is cordially invited. Give or send your name to one of the Committee, which consists of Miss May Burke and Mr. John O'Brien.

ANNUAL ASSOCIATION PARTY.

The Entertainment Committee of the Employees' Benefit Association wishes to make the coming winter party a great success in every way. There will be social and novelty dancing, with O'Leary's Orchestra, and a whist party in charge of an expert. "Get together and get acquainted" is the Committee's aim, and they hope for a record attendance of Library people and their relatives and close friends. This means everybody, and especially more people from the branches than last time.

The party will be held at Catholic Union Hall, 1682 Washington Street, on Friday evening, February 9. The entrance to the Hall is on Worcester Square near the Northampton station of the Elevated.

The Committee asks each Department, Branch and Reading Room to make a small contribution for prizes and to send it to Miss Alice Barry, Registration Department, on or before February 5. From the fund thus formed suitable prizes will be purchased for the winners at whist and also for those who take part in the novelty dances. The price of tickets is fifty cents, including tax. Two tickets will be issued to every member of the Association, and it is hoped that each member will take at least one.

Since it is the purpose of the Committee to make this party not only a social but also a financial success, donations for relief purposes, from individual members or friends of the Association, will be gladly received and deeply appreciated. Let us give the Committee a regular old-time backing and a 100 per cent. subscription.

LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

TEN-BOOK LISTS.

The Ten-book Lists published weekly by the Library are intended to present books in English, which, in text and illustration, make the subject vivid for the general reader. Since our last issue the following have been printed: Sculpture, by Walter Row-

lands; Winter sports, The stars, by John Murdoch; Mathematics for the general reader, by L. E. Taylor, from titles recommended by Professor R. C. Archibald, of Brown University; Dancing, by R. G. Appel.

The Lists on Halloween and Thanksgiving, attributed in the December issue of *LIBRARY LIFE* to Miss A. M. Jordan, were prepared by Miss Mary C. Toy, the Children's Librarian. The editors deeply regret this error.

GUIDE TO SERIAL PUBLICATIONS.

There was issued from the Library press last month Part I (A-Bibl) of "A guide to serial publications founded prior to 1918 and now or recently current in Boston, Cambridge, and vicinity," compiled and edited by Thomas Johnston Homer. A beginning is thus made in the long-awaited publication of the union list of periodicals, intended to bring up to 1918 the "List of . . . serial publications," issued by the Boston Public Library in 1897, and now out of print.

The new list, based on the material collected by Mr. Homer, with the co-operation of the libraries represented, which has now for a considerable period been housed and accessible for use in the Barton Gallery of the Central Library, is the first instalment of what is destined to be an indispensable tool for students using the libraries of the Boston district. The Part now published contains 1859 main entries, and perhaps two-thirds as many subordinate entries, by way of cross reference. Eighty-five libraries are covered by Mr. Homer's view, each of which has contributed some item of importance; almost all these libraries are in Boston or its immediate neighborhood, but single libraries as remote as Amherst and Woods Hole have been included for special reasons.

The Guide gives a great deal of information about the serials listed, and the extent to which they are available in the territory. It represents devoted work, protracted through a considerable number of years, now happily coming to fruition. *LIBRARY LIFE* congratulates Mr. Homer and the Library.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN.

The *Quarterly Bulletin* of the Library for June included a portrait of Allen A. Brown, from the photograph by Garo, in the Brown Music Room; an account of the Brown Music and Dramatic Collections, the former by Miss Barbara Duncan, lately in charge of the Music Room; and a list of references on the Project Method in Education.

The issue for September contained a brief sketch of the late Langdon L. Ward, Chief of the Branch Department; a facsimile from an original leaf, in the Library, of the Gutenberg Bible (1450?), with notes; and a list of the newspapers currently received, with asterisks indicating the files that are kept and bound.

In the December issue appear an interesting account of the Prince Library and its creator, the Rev. Thomas Prince, with a portrait as frontispiece; a letter from the Rev. Jeremy Belknap to the Rev. Paine Wingate, dated May 29, 1789, from an original in the Library; and a list of "Maps of Massachusetts, its counties and towns, exclusive of Boston," filling 21 pages. This list, which was compiled by Mr. John Murdoch, who has long been in charge of the Library's map collection, begins with Captain John Smith's map of New England, published in 1614, and ends with G. Bowers's plan of the Chelmsford water district; it is of great interest, not only for the large number of maps of various kinds which it makes easily available, but also for its vivid suggestions of progress since the days of the doughty captain.

On page 439 of the December *Bulletin* is a quaint set of "laws" for the use of a famous Neapolitan library, reprinted from the *Bodleian Quarterly Record*. As a pendant to these rules, LIBRARY LIFE presents the following exhortation, which was posted in Latin on the workroom door of the famous Venetian printer, Aldus Manutius, in 1501:

WHOEVER YOU ARE: I earnestly entreat you to dispatch your business as soon as possible, and then depart, unless you come hither like another Hercules, to lend some friendly assistance, for here will be work to employ you and as many as enter this place.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND
LIBRARY CONFERENCE.

The Library Associations of Massachusetts, Rhode Island, and Connecticut will hold a Southern New England Library Conference at the Narragansett Hotel, Providence, R. I., on Thursday and Friday, January 25 and 26. Very attractive programs have been arranged, the Rhode Island Library Association being responsible for the morning session on Thursday, the Connecticut Library Association for the Thursday evening session, and the Massachusetts Library Club for that of Friday morning. Both afternoons will be devoted to visiting libraries, in which Providence is rich.

The meeting will offer an unusual opportunity for meeting a large number of New England librarians, and for becoming acquainted with one of the important groups of American libraries. Among the features of the program will be an illustrated talk on "The History of the Book," by Andrew Keogh, Librarian of Yale University, and a "Librarians' *Bookshop Intime*," conducted by Truman R. Temple, of the Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy, as "General Manager and Chief Floor Walker," in which Miss Jordan, at the "Children's Counter," will describe her recent trip to Rootabaga and other countries.

Let's Go!

AMERICAN ASSOCIATION.

The American Association for the Advancement of Science, together with some thirty scientific societies affiliated with it, held its annual sessions in Cambridge during the week between Christmas and New Year's. On Friday afternoon, December 29, by invitation of the Trustees, members of the Association were conducted over the Library, finishing their tour at the Staff Room, where tea was served.

On Saturday, December 30, at 5 o'clock, the American Metric Association, organized to promote the use of the metric system, held a meeting in

the Library, which was addressed by Mr. Chase on "The Literature of Weights and Measures"; after the meeting the visitors were conducted about the building. Mr. Chase also spoke at the dinner of the Association in the evening.

A small collection of rare books illustrating the history of science was exhibited in cases in the Delivery Room on Friday.

EXTENSION SERVICE AND SPONSORSHIPS.

Something with which every member of the Public Library Staff should be familiar.

Many members of the staff must have noticed exhibits posted the last week in December on the bulletin board opposite the elevator on the ground floor, under the title of "Extension Service"; and those who have had the patience to read the sheets of explanation and to consider each of the twenty sponsorship sheets should have a fair idea of what this Extension Service is aiming to do. Briefly stated, the Extension Service aims to establish committees of one, i.e., "sponsors," who may be looked to for information, or for the development of resources, in connection with the topics assigned to them. These sponsors are expected in most instances to prepare statements that will serve as bulletins of the Extension Service, which will go to make up a loose-leaf handbook for reference purposes at the Boston Public Library.

By the time this article appears in print the sheets thus exhibited will probably have gone into this loose-leaf collection for reference on the subjects which they cover. At least one copy of this collection will be in the Public Library as a guide to sources of information. According to present plans, the copy will be at the Bates Hall Reference Desk, and new sheets (posted at the rate of at least one a week) will in turn be added to this reference manual. As a specialist is sponsor for each sheet, it goes without saying that when information is

needed, in addition to what is given on the sheet, the sponsor should be available as a source of appeal.

SUBJECTS OF SPONSORSHIP.

In the following list, Nos. 1 to 20 represent titles of sheets exhibited, while *a* to *r* represent titles of sheets in process or proposed. For about two-thirds of these subjects, sponsorships have already been established, and on nearly half of them college students have been, or are, assisting. It is expected eventually to have a student assistant for substantially every sponsor. The names of sponsors or of students appear on many of the sheets exhibited. For names not given, inquire of Mr. F. H. Chase of the Public Library.

1. Extension Service Committee.
2. Check List for Working up Sponsorship Material.
3. Inheritance Tax Protection and Business Insurance.
4. Community Centers.
5. Vocational Information Resources in Greater Boston.
6. Vocations and Avocations for Elderly People.
7. Arnold Arboretum.
8. Fine Arts in Boston and Vicinity.
9. Children's Libraries and Museums of Greater Boston.
10. Availability of Newspapers in Greater Boston.
11. Guide to Serial Publications, Boston, Cambridge and Vicinity.
12. Co-ordination of Student Work.
13. Mechanical Engineering Book List.
14. Electrical Engineering Book List.
15. Fuel Economy.
16. Food and Fuel Storage in Boston.
17. Maintenance of Buildings.
18. Convention Specifications.
19. Natural History.
20. Public Health.
 - a. Public Documents.
 - b. Post Office Addresses.
 - c. Social Settlements.
 - d. Agriculture.
 - e. Town Room Interests.
 - f. Telephone Service.
 - g. Chamber of Commerce.
 - h. Educational Resources.
 - i. Business Books.
 - j. Lantern Slides.
 - k. Maps and Atlases.
 - l. Engineering Handbooks.
 - m. Everyday English.
 - n. Dates of Coming Events.
 - o. Showing Boston.
 - p. Language Headquarters.
 - q. Disposal of Superfluous Material.
 - r. Criticism of Library Catalogues.

The sheets noted above represent the report of progress which was made at the open meeting of the Extension Service Committee on December 19. Several of them were discussed by their authors, who told how they secured the information given, and how they might extend them.

The meeting was followed by a box supper at the Boston Esperanto Society rooms, where Dr. Ruckmick reported on his class in Esperanto and Danish, an experiment conducted with some three hundred Wellesley students to ascertain the comparative ease of learning Esperanto and ordinary foreign languages.

Later, in the Staff Lecture Room, Mr. Chase gave a very entertaining talk on "Locating Information," and incidentally sponsors for it. This led into a general discussion of library and other information resources available about Boston.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION.

The Special Libraries Association of Boston will hold its next meeting on Monday, January 22, at 7.45 p.m., in the office of the Tel-U-Where Company of America, 142 Berkeley Street, Boston. The program will consist of a symposium on "How to get up-to-date information on business subjects." Each of the following speakers will take about five minutes, and will discuss the methods of meeting characteristic problems which have been found useful in his or her own library:

Mr. Armistead, of the Boston Elevated Railway Co.

Mr. Heaton, of the Boston Chamber of Commerce.

Miss Sheehan, of Fay, Spofford & Thorndike.

Miss Eaton, of the Federal Reserve Bank.

Miss Swett, of the General Electric Co.

Mrs. James, of the Harvard School of Business Administration.

Mr. Handy, of the Insurance Library Association.

Miss Bell, of Jackson and Moreland.
Mr. Cutter, of Arthur D. Little, Inc.
Miss Canavan, of Metcalf & Eddy.
Miss Clark, of Scovell, Wellington & Co.

Mr. Lee, of Stone & Webster.

Miss Gibbs, of the Tel-U-Where Company of America.

Arrangements have been made for an informal supper, preceding the meeting, to be served at the Brunswick Shoppe on Boylston St., at the corner of Clarendon St.

STAFF CLUB.

On Thursday evening, December 14, the Current Events Group listened to the Rev. Henry Hallam Saunderson, of Brighton, president of the Browning Club, who spoke on "The present-day situation in the Near East." His talk was given with a pleasant informality which encouraged his hearers to ask questions, and left them with a wider and clearer knowledge of a vital subject. The members present that evening would welcome the opportunity of hearing Mr. Saunderson again.

CHRISTMAS PARTY.

What a gay party it was! And what a genial spirit of good will prevailed! From the moment of entrance into the Staff Lecture Room we were surrounded by the atmosphere and essence of Christmas. The room was prettily decorated with streamers and bells, evergreen boughs and wreaths, and here and there we noted all the time-honored features of the Christmas season, the ornamented mantel, the realistic chimney from which Santa Claus later emerged, and the glittering Christmas tree. Over the mantel hung an immense and beautiful wreath adorned with cones and berries, and enclosing Christmas greetings from the Librarian, Mr. Belden, to all members of the staff.

The soft strain of Christmas carols announced the beginning of the evening's program, which was provided entirely by the Staff Club members, and terminated in a grand climax with the appearance of Santa Claus with his

well-laden pack. And such a splendid Santa Claus! In a cordial speech he welcomed all, and then proceeded to distribute his gifts, of all kinds, from the jolly little pickaninny penwiper to the graceful bud vase. Amid the laughter of the members and the jocose remarks of Santa the packages were opened and the contents displayed. Then came the announcement that refreshments were to be served, and all trooped into the lunch-room, where from an attractive holly-decked table, ice cream, cake and candy were dispensed. All too soon the closing bell sounded, wraps and gifts were rapidly gathered up and the guests departed, proclaiming the 1922 Staff Club Christmas Party the best yet.

Congratulations to the Committee — Miss M. Florence Cufflin, Chairman, Miss Marian A. McCarthy, Miss Bessie Doherty, Miss Eleanor M. Mulcahey, Miss Mary Golden, and Mr. William F. A. Graham, — on an extremely pleasant and successful party.

A PLAY.

At the regular meeting of the Staff Club on Wednesday evening, January 24, the Dramatic Committee will offer its fourth production, a one-act domestic drama entitled "Where shall we go?" by Henri Lavedan. The following people will take parts: M. Devain, F. H. Chase; Mme. Devain, Alice M. Jordan; their daughters: Germaine, Esther Lissner; Jeanne, Mary E. Prim; Louise, Bessie Doherty; Agatha, Edith von Schoppe; Blanche, Harriet Kelleher. Miss Hanson of the Ordering Department will sing. There will be dancing and refreshments after the play.

The treasurer will be present to receive unpaid dues for the year 1922.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

DR. MANN.

At the invitation of the Association, a large number of the staff met in the Lecture Hall on the morning of January 2, to say farewell to Dr. Mann, President of the Board of Trustees,

who has accepted the election to the Episcopal bishopric of Pittsburgh.

On behalf of the Association, the president, Mr. William C. Maers, Jr., presented to Dr. Mann a large colored and framed reproduction of the painting, "The Round Table," which forms the central panel in the first group of Abbey's mural decorations in the Delivery Room of the Central Library.

Dr. Mann, in accepting the picture, spoke of it as his favorite among the series. He expressed his sincere appreciation of the spirit which prompted the gift, and assured the members that he should always cherish the picture as one of his most valued possessions.

After Dr. Mann had gone out, the following resolutions were adopted unanimously:

WHEREAS, the Rev. Alexander Mann, D.D., President of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library, is about to leave Boston to become Bishop of the Episcopal Diocese of Pittsburgh; be it

Resolved, that the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association feels regret at Dr. Mann's departure from the Library, in which his attitude toward the Association and its members has always been one of friendship and co-operation.

Resolved, that the Association is deeply grateful to Dr. Mann for his steady interest and sympathy, his wise counsel, his support of its work, and his kindly presence at its gatherings.

Resolved, that the best wishes of the Association and of its individual members go with Dr. Mann to his new sphere of activity.

Resolved, that these resolutions be spread upon the records of the Association, and that a copy be transmitted to Dr. Mann.

The special meeting was followed immediately by the regular January business meeting, the President in the chair. The oral report of Mr. Taylor, chairman, for the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, was accepted as progressive; Mr. O'Brien, chairman of the Entertainment Committee, reported plans for the Whist Party and Dance to be held on February 9. Upon Mr. Belden's suggestion it was voted that the President appoint a committee from the mechanical departments and another from the Library proper, to confer with the Librarian on courses to be held in the Central Library, which shall be of benefit to the employees.

NOMINATIONS.

At the close of the meeting, the following persons were nominated for office, for the year beginning April 3, 1923:

President: William C. Maiers, Jr.,
Ordering Dept.

Vice-president: Frank H. Chase, Bates
Hall Reference Dept.

Treasurer: Frank C. Blaisdell, Issue
Dept.

Secretary: George W. Gallagher,
Bindery.

Financial Secretary: Morris J. Rosen-
berg, Statistical Dept.

Board of Directors (vote for one):

Miss Florence Cufflin, South Boston
Branch.

Everett F. Matthews, East Boston
Branch.

Auditing Committee:

Michael McCarthy, Jr., Catalogue
Dept.

Chester A. S. Fazakas, Branch Dept.

Joseph A. Crowley, Patent Room.

Entertainment Committee:

John J. O'Brien, Bindery.

Miss Florence Sullivan, Bates Hall
Centre Desk.

Miss Alice M. Barry, Registration
Dept.

Miss Mary E. Prim, Information
Dept.

Emil Hofman, Printing Dept.

Relief Committee:

Miss Maud M. Morse, Branch Dept.

Miss Harriet V. Mulloy, Ordering
Dept.

Miss Lillian M. Bickford, East Bos-
ton Branch.

Miss Margaret Calnan, South Bos-
ton Branch.

Miss Margaret V. Rooney, Brighton
Branch.

James P. Mooers, Bindery.

James Reay, Printing Dept.

Abraham Snyder, Catalogue Dept.

Harry W. Mathews, Bates Hall
Reference Dept.

George C. Johnson, Fine Arts Dept.

Members of the Association are re-
minded that, up to Tuesday, March
20, further nominations may be made
by sending a written notice, bearing
the consent of the nominee, to the
Secretary.

THE SICK LIST.

The Relief Committee reports four
members ill since December: Miss
Helen Hilton, of the Branch Depart-
ment; Miss Lucy E. Soule, of the
Bindery; Miss Nellie Stone, of the
Hyde Park Branch; and Mr. John
Murdoch, of the Catalogue Depart-
ment. Miss Stone and Mr. Murdoch
have returned to duty. Miss Alice
Morris, of the Bindery, returned to
duty January 2, after a very long ill-
ness. Miss E. O. Frinsdorff, of the
Ordering Department, is absent on ac-
count of illness in her family. Miss
Elizabeth Barry, of the Catalogue De-
partment, is recovering from a severe
attack of grippe.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

The committee on the revision of
the Constitution, aside from its per-
sonal interest in the Association, feels
that it is continuing the work of many
worthy and disinterested fellow-mem-
bers who have given their time and
thought to the Association from the
beginning.

It is not so much the wording and
arrangement of the document that
matter. The committee has tried to
make these as perfect as may be, of
course; but taking it by and large, it
has seemed more important to produce
a flexible instrument that shall pro-
vide machinery for the full develop-
ment of our resources. We need larger
income, and the way to achieve it is
to give the members a chance to work
for the Association.

In regard to the Retirement Act, the
Association itself must decide whether
the funds seem equal to the burden
of paying death benefits to those who
may die after retirement. Our average
annual death rate for the past six years
has been 2.83. During the next twenty
years eighty-eight of our members will
become seventy years of age. Even
supposing they should all remain mem-
bers of the Association, the average
death rate from this source would be
less than five per annum.

The committee appreciates the op-
portunity of serving the Association,
and hopes to issue a tentative revision
this month.

L. E. T.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume II, No. 5

February 15, 1923

CONTENTS.

THE CONSECRATION OF BISHOP MANN	45	NEWS NOTES	53
PENSION QUESTION BOX	46	CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS	54
SOCIAL WORK IN THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY	47	SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY CONFERENCE	55
A NEW YEAR FLITTING	49	BUSINESS INFORMATION	57
THE WAR MEMORIAL	50	LIBRARY SPIRIT CLUB	58
HENRY ABRAHAMS	51	BOWLING	58
THE LOUVAIN LIBRARY	51	STAFF CLUB	59
PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY	51	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	59
EDITORIALS	52		

THE CONSECRATION OF BISHOP MANN.

Nestling among the office skyscrapers and towering hotels in the heart of the business section of Pittsburgh stands "old" Trinity Church, the scene on Thursday, January 25, St. Paul's Day, of the consecration of the Rev. Alexander Mann, D.D., as Episcopal Bishop of Pittsburgh, a diocese which includes eleven counties in southwestern Pennsylvania and covers more than eight thousand square miles of territory. The present Trinity Church of Pittsburgh was designed, as was Trinity Church of Boston, by H. H. Richardson. It was erected in 1873, and is the third edifice to occupy the site originally given by a brother of William Penn, where, on a point of land at the confluence of the Allegheny and Monongahela Rivers, there was a small settlement of sturdy pioneers.

Long before the hour of the ceremony all the available space in the edifice was filled by fortunate and expectant ticket-holders, while a large crowd was gathered in the street outside. The morning was raw and rain

threatened, but fortunately when the hour arrived, the colorful and solemn procession in four divisions was possible; promptly at 10:30, led by a choir of fifty voices, and amid the peal of chimes, it issued from the vestry and wended its way to the main entrance of Trinity.

THE SCENE IN THE CHURCH.

The church was brilliantly illuminated. The altar was simply festooned with greens and white roses; the only other decoration of the church was a large American flag. It was appropriate that the consecrating bishop should be the elder brother of Dr. Mann, the Right Reverend Cameron Mann, of Southern Florida. He was assisted in the beautiful, dignified, solemn form of consecration and the administration of the Holy Communion by a distinguished group of bishops, presbyters, and other church dignitaries. At the urgent request of Dr. Mann, Bishop Lawrence of Massachusetts had agreed to deliver the sermon. It was a stirring address on the ministry of conciliation, and its thought seemed to apply most strikingly to the character and life of the beloved leader then being consecrated as bishop. The

"laying on of hands" upon the head of the newly elected bishop by the ten bishops present seemed to most of those in the congregation the culminating moment of dignity and solemnity in the service. Thus in the presence of ecclesiastics from various parts of the country, as well as of leading laymen representing the Episcopal and other denominations in the city and district, of city, state and federal officials, and invited guests, Dr. Mann became the Right Reverend Alexander Mann, third Bishop of Pittsburgh. It is an interesting fact that on this occasion, for the first time in history, a service of consecration was heard through the medium of radio from coast to coast.

FESTIVITIES.

Following the impressive church service a luncheon was tendered to Bishop Mann and his family at the William Penn Hotel. More than a hundred sat at the attractive tables. At the close of the repast a number of informal addresses were made by the special friends of the guest of honor. It was not only noticeable but significant — the agreement expressed as to the qualities that have made Dr. Mann so highly respected and admired, namely, his big-heartedness, his wholesomeness, his fairness, his ability to bring men together; it was a splendid and touching tribute. The new Bishop responded briefly and feelingly. Immediately after the luncheon, which lasted until past four o'clock, a reception was given to the guests from Boston at the home of the Rev. Edwin J. Van Etten, Rector of Calvary Church, Pittsburgh. Mr. Van Etten, it will be remembered, was some years ago assistant to Dr. Mann at Trinity Church, Boston.

The spirit in which Bishop Mann was welcomed to Pittsburgh was strikingly shown at the public evening reception tendered to him in the festooned and decorated ballroom of the William Penn Hotel, where for four hours, to the accompaniment of orchestral music, some ten thousand men and women of all creeds and faiths passed down the receiving line, which

contained not only the honored guest and his wife, but leading churchmen of the Episcopal and other denominations. It was a fitting close to the induction of "our" Dr. Mann, ex-President of the Board of Trustees, to his new field of labor in the chief industrial centre of the world, with his headquarters in the city ranking fifth in population among those of the United States.

C. B.

PENSION QUESTION BOX.

VIII.

What classes of employees of the Library are already included in existing pension systems, and consequently exempt from deductions?

ANSWER.

All laborers, mechanics, and artisans. This includes printers, binders, elevator men, janitors, in fact, all who work with their hands and can be classed broadly as laborers or mechanics; it does not include licensed engineers or firemen.

IX.

On what date will employees now seventy years old, who enter the Retirement System, be relieved from duty?

ANSWER.

The wording of the Act says "within thirty days of the time the law becomes operative," that is, technically, thirty days after April 1, 1923, when all will have signified their intentions as to joining the System. It probably will take a little more time in the beginning than it will later to adjust such cases, because of the large number coming all at once.

X.

In the case of employees who postpone entrance to the System, will accumulated deductions be made when they enter? If so, to what date will arrears go back?

ANSWER.

There will be no deductions or arrear assessments for the period during which a person is not a member of the

System, nor any pension allowance for this period. It simply stands as a gap in the employee's term of service.

XI.

What ruling has been made with regard to deductions from evening and Sunday pay, and how will these deductions affect the retiring allowances?

ANSWER.

It has been decided to accept Sunday and evening service as "regular" service, and pay received for such service will be subject to the regular per cent deduction. This is a very happy solution of this question, and means a great deal to many Library employees, whose retirement allowance will thus be materially increased. This decision applies to all who are steadily employed in regular Sunday and evening positions. The provisions regarding prior service also apply in these cases, just the same as in the day service.

XII.

Under what class of employees are those of the Library included?

ANSWER.

Clerks — except such as come under the classification of laborers and mechanics (see VIII, above).

The Retirement Board has just issued a valuable pamphlet, entitled "What the Boston Retirement System does for employees of the City of Boston and County of Suffolk." This pamphlet answers many questions, and sheds a great deal of light on the whole subject of pensions in Boston. At the end is a series of useful tables, with directions for applying them. Every member of the Library staff should secure and read a copy of this pamphlet.

SOCIAL WORK IN THE ST. LOUIS PUBLIC LIBRARY.

On Tuesday afternoon, January 16, Dr. A. E. Bostwick addressed the library students of Simmons College on the social aspects of the work of the St. Louis Public Library, of which he

is at the head. A number of librarians from the Boston district were present by invitation. Dr. Bostwick said in part:

"Formerly, a good librarian must know books, know them intimately, and must have some sort of arrangement and record so that the books wanted could be located; to-day, a good librarian must not only do this, and do it better and more efficiently than ever, but he must know people and the community, and must bring books and people together: socialization is the keynote of modern library work. Broadly speaking, this socializing process is being accomplished in two ways: first, by taking the library to the people; and second, by bringing the people to the library.

"The St. Louis Library is taken to the people in various ways: by "home" libraries, traveling libraries, playground libraries, school libraries, deposit libraries, and branch libraries. The people are brought to the Library by advertising, by opening library buildings for any purpose for which the people wish to use them, by intensive and human service to the community.

MANY KINDS OF LITTLE LIBRARIES.

"A branch library is very often the outgrowth of some one of the smaller, temporary libraries. These smaller ones are "feelers," which show where branches are needed. The "home" library consists of a box of books, changed at intervals, left at some private house, to which the people of the neighborhood go for books. The traveling library is usually a book wagon or book truck, which follows a certain route, and stops at certain places at a certain time. Two assistants "set up" a miniature library at each stop, giving out books, taking applications for cards, and doing all the regular routine business of the library. At many of the playgrounds, there are particularly successful libraries. Story-telling is an important feature of this playground work; at one playground, the people of the neighborhood have christened a tree the "story-telling

tree," because the story hours take place under it. Then there are the deposit libraries, which play a large part in this policy of taking the library to the people. In many factories a collection of books is administered by and for the employees. One unique deposit is maintained in the lunchroom operated by a business women's club. Deposits are left in stores and fire-engine houses; and those in hospitals fill one of the greatest of present-day needs.

IN THE SCHOOLHOUSES.

"So far has this socializing process been carried in St. Louis that school buildings are now erected with definite library rooms — not just rooms which happen to be unused for classes, but rooms planned with a library in view. These have separate entrances, and are, in fact, branch libraries, where all the people of the community, adults as well as children, are served. Of course, there is always the danger that as the school grows larger, the library will be taken over as a classroom. But as the school grows larger, the population also has grown larger, and usually the time is ripe for a separate branch library building. The library in the school is really a sub-branch, meant to serve the people until such time as a separate branch building is erected.

"And when the branch is erected many of the people are ready and eager to go to it for books. But the branches are made real social centres for the community by opening them to all the people for a multitude of purposes; for example, they are used for polling places, and thus many people are introduced to the library for the first time. Clubs which ask for the privilege are welcome to use the club rooms and auditoriums for their meetings, the only stipulation being that they be reasonably quiet, and that they have no meetings or entertainments to which admission is charged. The rooms are used by such diverse organizations as women's parliamentary law clubs, boys' orchestras for practice, Boy Scouts, Camp Fire Girls. Young

people of the neighborhood may hold dances in the branches, provided a chaperone known to the librarian is present.

"In all of these activities, the Library plays no part in organization or in bringing together the people; it is there for them to use, if they wish, after they have organized themselves.

"The Library does, however, play an active part in interesting people in other ways. At fairs and exhibitions, it reserves space for displays. At a builders' fair, an exhibit of books for the home, books on home building, books on home decoration, etc., is shown. At an agricultural fair, the exhibit is of books and periodicals on agriculture; similarly, exhibits of technical, industrial, or business publications are shown at fairs devoted to those subjects. The booth maintained by one of the branch libraries each year at an annual picnic of the community has become an almost indispensable institution, and acts in many capacities. It has become the unofficial information booth, and locates inconsolable children for frantic parents, and the like. At one large fair, a model children's library was maintained, cards were issued, and books circulated.

MUSIC AND ART.

"One distinctive service has been the attempt to introduce the children to the best in music and art. Artists and art critics have given lectures, and paintings and other art treasures have been generously loaned by the museums, that the children might learn to know and appreciate the best. Children who have heard the lectures have often been discovered pointing out the "good points" of a great painting to their unfortunate playmates who had not been present at the lectures.

"Then there is a determined effort to reach the foreigners, to interest them in each other, and the "natives" in all. Formerly, receptions were held in the libraries in order to make all the people of the city familiar with them. Proceeding from this idea, a series of "nights" have been held, such

as Chinese night, Irish night, Greek night, in which the people of the different nationalities give programs of songs, folk dances, etc., and the life of the country is prominently displayed. These have been very successful, and the different peoples vie with each other in making their programs entertaining and interesting.

"In every conceivable way, the Library is kept everlastingly before the people, and they are welcomed and encouraged to use it for any public purpose. The library seeks to become a living, working, indispensable factor in the life of all the people of the city."

E. G.

A NEW YEAR FLITTING.

It was a real child who stood in the entryway of the South End Branch, not, as I suspected, something that had got out of the Brownie books. What threw me off was the pointed cap it wore, and the wide grin.

"The lib'ry's all moved in," announced the Brownie-child, rushing forward; "you get your books across the street now."

"All moved!" I cried, "It can't be. They only started to-day."

"All moved," the Brownie declared firmly, and darted aside to intercept someone else.

I stumbled over a tangle of chairs and surveyed a dismantled Children's Room. The books were gone from the shelves, the pictures piled against the wall. Forward came Mr. Robert Dixon, who is in charge of the Shipping Department of the library.

"Where is everything?" I murmured vaguely.

"We started to move at ten this morning," he began the epic narrative. "There were about twelve thousand books on the shelves; three thousand were out. On the back of each book we chalked its section letter. The books were then packed in sacks, carried across the street to the new building, where a chute was arranged from a window — the windows are on a level with the street, you know. The boxes

were shot into the library, and the attendants unpacked the books and arranged them on the shelves. Our public had already discovered the new library and began to take out the books at once. We had a record day —"

A blue-clad mover interrupted at this point, and threw Mr. Dixon into a discussion about what was to be done with the pictures. I tiptoed into the hall. The amateur traffic director was still on the job. I turned toward the stairway, but he swiftly blocked my path. "You can't go up. There's no one there but the head lib'ry teacher."

I fixed him with a glittering eye. "She may be able to tell me more about this moving — if she is still conscious!" said I.

He moved respectfully aside. I slid through the swinging upstairs doors into a bleak, cleared room, like — well, like a church in the middle of the week. I remembered that the South End Branch had been a church formerly; had, indeed, housed many congregations.

There was a single light burning, and a gas light at that! Like the captain in the poem, I "steered by that little light," and came to a safe harbor in the presence of South End's capable and friendly librarian, Miss Margaret Sheridan.

"Have you really moved everything?" I inquired. "Well, I'm afraid it will take another day to get the rest of the furniture out," said the librarian regretfully.

I grasped at a dusty chair — and a straw. "You haven't been in this building long, I suppose?"

EIGHTEEN YEARS.

"Eighteen years," replied Miss Sheridan. "This is the third time the Branch has moved since I've had charge. Before coming here, we were in the English High School Building on Montgomery Street; and our original location was the Mercantile Association Building, on the corner of Tremont and West Newton Streets. Yes, I am quite a migratory librarian. I'm always willing to move with the South

End Branch, but I don't ever want to move away from it."

"But the people who come in," I hinted; "aren't they hard to handle sometimes?"

The gentle Miss Sheridan fairly bristled. "Why, the people are wonderful!" she insisted. "They use the library to its very best advantage. Post-office clerks and policemen who are preparing for an exam come here to study. We also have night-watchmen, who get in a little reading between sleeping and working. The men from the Old Men's Home, which is quite near, come here. Then the schools around use the library a great deal: Girls' High, English High and Boston College High. Why, we couldn't have a nicer public."

"You must be kept very busy," I suggested. "How many have you on the staff?"

"There are four women beside myself, and one young man," she explained, "and three extra assistants who come in at night."

So, five females and one lone young man superintended the moving of an accumulation of eighteen years! Which is something to remember next time you grumble about packing for your summer vacation.

NEW YEAR'S DAY.

"To-morrow, February 1," continued the librarian, "the Library year begins, and to-morrow our public will be settled in a nice new building."

"I hope you and the public will have many happy New Years there," I said.

The movers bore down upon us and removed Miss Sheridan's desk. They looked about for other odds and ends. "What about that rubber plant?" inquired one.

I followed his glance and saw a huge, weird plant. One side was covered with glossy leaves, the other was dry and withered. It was like something in a legend. Miss Sheridan gazed at it, her blue eyes twinkling behind her glasses. "One of my young ladies said: 'Miss Sheridan, where there's a rubber plant, no one ever gets married.

Give us a chance!' — No, we won't take the rubber plant," she decided.

The insatiable movers looked hopefully toward my chair. I got up and they seized it. Mr. Dixon appeared to inquire about the pictures which had been removed from the walls of the Children's Room. He and the librarian moved off, talking. I followed. I looked back once at the dismantled churchly room. The rubber plant stretched its tentacles over the top of a book-case. I fled its baleful influence, seeking a new library, a New Year.

M. E. P.

THE WAR MEMORIAL.

The Committee appointed some time ago by the Employees' Benefit Association, to procure a suitable memorial to the members of the Library staff who served in the World War, has given the commission to Mr. Frederick W. Allen, who has modelled a wall tablet to be cast in bronze and placed in the Library at some spot to be assigned by the Trustees, after the design has been approved by them and by the Art Commission of the City of Boston.

Mr. Allen is an instructor in the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, upon the Fenway front of which may be seen a large bas-relief from his hand, entitled "Painting." He is the sculptor of the medallion of ex-Mayor Peters in the City Hall, of a relief of Lincoln in the New England Historic-Genealogical Society, of the war memorial tablet erected by the City in Mount Hope Cemetery, and of a memorial to the men of Trinity Church who lost their lives in the World War, as well as of numerous other works. The Committee believes that it has secured a worthy memorial which will meet the approval of all concerned, and it now remains only to raise the amount needed to pay for the work, after it has been formally accepted by the authorities.

A photograph of the model of the tablet may be seen in the Fine Arts

Department, on application to the chairman of the committee, Mr. Walter Rowlands.

W. R.

HENRY ABRAHAMAS.

Henry Abrahams, worker for the cause of labor, and member of the Library's Examining Committee for the present year, died on January 15, 1923. Boston had been his home since he was fourteen years old.

Mr. Abrahams was born in Buffalo in 1855. For forty years of his life he had worked at the bench as a cigar-maker. Aside from this, his devotion was given to the Boston Central Labor Union, of which he was for many years secretary, and later president; to the bringing up of a family of eight children; and to the collection of a library of some fifteen hundred volumes, which were his pride. He also served as a trustee of the Franklin Union, as a member of the Massachusetts Child Labor Committee, and of the Massachusetts Branch of the American Association for Labor Legislation.

The funeral services, conducted by Rabbi Harry Levi of Temple Israel, were held at Paine Memorial Hall and there, while the body lay in state, came more than five thousand persons, friends, and representatives of the various organizations to which he was attached. He was buried at West Roxbury in the Hand-in-Hand Cemetery.

THE LOUVAIN LIBRARY.

The Massachusetts Library Club is soliciting funds from the libraries of the Commonwealth to fulfil the promises made to the University of Louvain for the restoration of its library, so ruthlessly destroyed by the Germans during their invasion of Belgium. There have been gifts of books, and of money for the purchase of books; now the building fund must be completed for the erection of the memorial library, in which the accumulating books are to be housed.

Twenty-five cents is asked from each library assistant — a trifling sum for

the individual to give, but in the aggregate our quarters will go far to help build the attractive edifice which has already been designed. In some part of this building the name of the Boston Public Library will be inscribed as a reminder to future students of Louvain University of our desire to commemorate in a practical and beautiful way the Americans who fell on Belgian ground.

PHYSICS AND CHEMISTRY.

The constant demand for books on pure Physics and Chemistry by readers interested in both theory and practice, and the increasing difficulty of drawing a sharp line between science and technology, have led most of the large libraries to combine these collections; the Technology Division of the Boston Public Library has been working toward this end for some time.

The reference books on Physics and Chemistry, formerly in Bates Hall, have been removed to the "Industrial Reference" alcove, to become the nucleus of a larger open-shelf collection to be used for both reference and circulation.

A working collection of books on these two subjects is also being formed and will be shelved on new class numbers, 8200-8299, immediately following the 8039 series of the Technology collection. The classification scheme follows closely that of the Library of Congress, and is similar to the one used for the technical books. G. S. M.

Nineteen of the Library's junior assistants enrolled in the course in Reference Work at its first meeting on Tuesday, November 21, and no one dropped out. The ten lessons came to an end on January 23, and were followed by an examination on the 30th, in the form of ten problems on the books discussed during the preceding weeks. The papers are now in the hands of the examiners.

A repetition of the lessons began on Thursday, February 8, with a class of sixteen at the first meeting.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*
CHRISTINE HAYES LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. II, No. 5. February 15, 1923

SAVING.

How many of us have had the pleasant experience, this winter, of turning into cash the War Savings Stamps which we bought, little by little, five years ago, and had almost forgotten? How many are now enjoying the use of something which we always thought we couldn't afford, but which we have purchased with the proceeds of the Liberty Bonds which we paid for, a dollar or two a week, in the war days?

We never saved before the war. We didn't know that we could save — that we had any possible margin for it. We have not saved anything since. Yet, under the stress of the war earnestness, we found it possible, we did it gladly, and we have reaped the benefit of what was at the moment an act of patriotism, rather than of thrift. We had for a few months the will to save; we have lacked it ever since.

We are now having afresh the experience of saving each week — of laying aside a dollar or two, for a purpose not of our own choosing. It will be hard to get used to it, without the help of an enthusiasm such as we felt in the great days of the war. Some of us are growling, when we find each Monday that a certain sum has been deducted from our salary; we are so ill able to spare it!

But we all learn, just as we did in 1918. And in time, every one of us will have reason to be glad. We have been accustomed to call what the City is doing a Pension System; it is rather a scheme of saving, for us all. Only, in place of the four per cent, which Uncle Sam gave us, the City gives us

four per cent, and then one hundred per cent, and then four per cent on that hundred — one hundred and eight per cent altogether, on our savings. It is hard, perhaps, to submit to the deductions; but where in the world can we get such a return?

For those now employed, the money which the City lays aside, on the basis of our "prior service," is a real non-contributory pension — all to the good; that is, a gift for which we pay nothing. As regards the annuity for which we do pay — only one-half of what we are to receive — when the payments hurt us, as they will sometimes, let us remember the War Savings Stamps and the Liberty Bonds, and look forward to the time when we shall reap the reward of our savings. The satisfactions of life all have to be paid for; but this satisfaction will be ours at a low price. Few "markdown sales" ever gave so much for so little.

The editor recently received the following letter from Bishop Mann:

February 5th, 1923.

To the Editor of LIBRARY LIFE:

I have just received the January number of LIBRARY LIFE which I have read with much interest and I should like through you to express my appreciation of the little article concerning my Consecration as Bishop of Pittsburgh.

Please remember me most kindly to the staff and tell them that Boston Public Library will always have a happy place in my memory.

Yours sincerely,
ALEXANDER MANN.

Diocese of Pittsburgh;
Church Rooms,
317 Jenkins Arcade.

"Dr." Mann may rest assured that his affection for the Library is reciprocated.

LIBRARY LIFE welcomes the appearance of Part 2 of Mr. Thomas J. Homer's "Guide to Serial Publications," of which the first Part was noticed last month. This part also contains 96 pages, and covers the entries from Bibl- to Esp-, bringing the total number to 3952, regardless of reference-entries. It is of interest to note that

the titles entered under the word "Boston" cover four pages (one for "sees"); those beginning with "British" and "Congregational" require three pages each; "Chicago" and "Engineering" have two each; "Deutsch" takes seven — eloquent testimony to the importance of the patriotic motive in German scholarship.

The "Guide," which is now well under way, is typographically compact, yet pleasingly legible; it promises to be as handy to use as it is indispensable for reference. Mr. Homer, with the help of the Library's Printing Department, is producing a notable work of scholarly bibliography; may its completion be steadily hastened!

NEWS NOTES

Mr. Benjamin, our popular police officer, has returned to work after a long illness. We are all glad to welcome "Ben" back, and we hope that his voice is as wonderful as ever.

Save the evening of April 3 for the All-Library entertainment, at which the Pension Committee will be honored guests. Details will be announced later.

Miss Marian W. Brackett, Librarian of the Brighton Branch, is on leave of absence, to enable her to take a much-needed rest. Miss Brackett will be very glad to hear from her friends, and may be addressed at the Brighton Branch.

Miss Margaret A. Calnan, formerly an assistant at the South Boston Branch, was recently appointed acting librarian of the Jeffries Point Reading Room.

Mr. Horace L. Wheeler, of the Statistical Department, has recently been unanimously re-elected for his sixth consecutive term as president of the Boston Numismatic Society.

Mr. Belden has been re-appointed by the Trustees of the Museum of Fine

Arts as a member of the Visiting Committee to the Museum Library for the year 1923.

On Saturday evening, February 3, Miss Louise Cassidy, while working in the Barton Library, was seized with a severe attack of ptomaine poisoning. Miss Cassidy has recovered and is now back at work.

The employees of the Library have given generous support to Miss Agnes E. Daly, who was chosen by the Mayor as the official candidate of the City departments for the "Good-will" trip to France. May she be one of the winners!

Many of our readers remember Theodora Kimball, once of the Catalogue Department, and will be interested in her work as joint editor, with Mr. F. L. Olmsted, Jr., of the professional papers of Frederick Law Olmsted. Volume I of these papers, "Early years and experiences, together with biographical notes," has recently appeared (New York, Putnam, 1922) and will be followed by others, the series being intended to cover, when complete, Mr. Olmsted's main activities as a landscape architect.

This initial volume gives promise of great interest and reflects credit upon the editors, who evidently have performed their task with enthusiasm as well as with knowledge. Miss Kimball is represented in the Bates Hall Catalogue by eleven other entries.

On January 17, the birthday of Benjamin Franklin, the Jordan Marsh Company displayed in their windows a collection of Franklin material lent by the Library.

Sir Frederic G. Kenyon, Director and Principal Librarian of the British Museum, was a visitor to the Library on Friday, February 9.

Lovers of poster art should visit the Fine Arts Exhibition Room, the week of February 19-25. There they will see the 300 original cover designs, many

of them very striking in color, selected from 1452 offered in the prize contest of *The House Beautiful*. There is an opportunity for each visitor to vote for his favorite design. Every voter will receive as a gift a copy of the magazine, with a full account of the exhibition.

The letters "E. G.", at the foot of the interesting report of Mr. Bostwick's talk, are the initials of Miss Elsie Gordon, a student in the Simmons College Library School.

The Library has lately received by bequest two paintings, both of which have been approved for acceptance by the Art Commission of Boston. The first, from the will of Henry T. Lynde, is a portrait of the Rev. Jedediah Morse, the famous geographer, who was pastor of the First Parish Church in Charlestown from 1789 to 1820, and father of S. F. B. Morse; this will be hung in the Charlestown Branch. The second is a beautiful New England landscape, entitled "Hayfield," by the late Marcus Waterman, A.N.A., which was left to the Library by his brother, William C. Waterman.

There is now on view in the showcase of the Children's Room a very attractive exhibit of minerals and shells, lent by the Children's Museum.

The *Library Journal* for January 1 publishes an editorial summary of library progress during 1922, which contains numerous items of interest. Among the personnel changes may be noted the advancement of Miss Louise Prouty, formerly of the Boston Public Library, to be vice-librarian at Cleveland, Ohio; the departure of Mr. Clarence E. Sherman from Lynn, to become assistant librarian of the Providence Public Library; and the appointment of Miss Joyce G. Bisbee as librarian at Lynn.

Later issues of the *Library Journal* bring further personal notes of local interest. Miss Marion Bowman has become librarian of the Old Colony Trust Company, succeeding Miss Irene Gibbons. Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell, li-

brarian of the Social Service Library, has been appointed Dean of the School of Social Work of Simmons College. Mrs. Ruth McG. Lane is the new librarian of the Vail Library at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Miss Edna Phillips has been called from library work in New Jersey to take the place left vacant by Miss J. Maud Campbell, as director of the work with aliens of the Massachusetts Free Library Commission.

CALENDAR OF COMING EVENTS.

Among the projects which have long been under consideration by the Extension Service Committee is a calendar of coming events, such as has been for some years maintained in the St. Louis Public Library. The papers announce the events of each day as it arrives; entertainments for profit or meetings for propaganda are advertised in advance. But the free events of an educational or recreational nature are frequently missed by reason of the obscurity of their announcement.

With the consent of the Librarian, the Extension Service Committee has now made a beginning toward meeting this need. On the bulletin board opposite the elevator in the lower hall of the Central Library are posted announcements of coming events, for a period of seven days in advance. Each morning a new sheet is posted; by a simple alternation of colors it is possible at a glance to see which sheets contain the events of the current week, which those of the week to come. By means of small colored stickers reference is made to a series of notes posted elsewhere on the board, giving further information in regard to some of the events listed.

The Committee invites co-operation in this venture. All who know of coming free events of general interest are requested to notify Mrs. Allen Chamberlain, of the Committee, care Information Office, Boston Public Library.

SOUTHERN NEW ENGLAND LIBRARY CONFERENCE.

Ten members of the staff of the Boston Public Library attended the Southern New England Library Conference, held in Providence, R. I., January 25 and 26. The Conference, in which the library associations of three states co-operated, was very successful, and was attended by some 200 members of the profession. The weather was fine, the Narragansett Hotel, chosen as headquarters, was lavish of both comfort and hospitality, and the local committee had spared no efforts to give everybody a good time.

The first session, on Thursday forenoon, Jan. 25, was in charge of the Rhode Island Library Association, of which Mr. George L. Hinckley, of the Redwood Library, Newport, formerly a member of our Catalogue Department, is President. The Conference opened with an eloquent address of welcome by President W. H. P. Faunce, of Brown University, who dwelt on the dignity and wide usefulness of the librarian's calling. He was followed by Dr. H. L. Koopman, Librarian of the University, who gave an informing account of some of the libraries of the city, citing many picturesque facts connected with their history. Miss Stella E. Whittier, librarian of the Hope Street High School, Providence, then presented a very entertaining description of her work with high-school students, which gave some of us a new insight into the importance of libraries, with trained librarians, in the schools.

A BIBLIOTHERAPEUTIC TRAGEDY.

The Rhode Island session closed with a library play, entitled "Exit Miss Lizzie Cox," which proved to be one of the hits of the Conference. The play, which was written by Anne Morris Boyd, of the University of Illinois Library School, was described on the program as "A Bibliotherapeutic Tragedy in one act"; it was produced under the direction of Mr. F. K. W. Drury, of the John Hay Library. It presented the startling effects of a new method of

medical treatment — one based on the prescription of appropriate reading as a cure for all mental ills — upon various residents of the town of Nuttville; the scene was laid in the Nuttville Bibliopathic Sanatorium, where Dr. Kurall, with the help of a very competent and sympathetic head nurse, dispensed remedies to types as remote from each other as Tom Lovem, a local sport, completely debauched by over-indulgence in best-sellers, to the Librarian, Miss Lizzie Cox, to whom the prescription of "Pollyanna" proved fatally satisfying. The performance was swift and vivid, and all the parts were well carried.

The evening session on Thursday was in the hands of the Connecticut Library Association, of which Mrs. Belle Holcomb Johnson, State Visitor of Libraries, is President; it consisted of two delightful addresses, a sympathetic and informing review of Contemporary Essayists, with liberal reading from their latest works, by Mrs. R. G. Sherwood, Librarian at Westport, Conn., and a scholarly illustrated lecture on The History of the Book, by Mr. Andrew Keogh, Librarian of Yale University. Mrs. Sherwood displayed a rare power in rendering the flavor of the volumes which she described; Mr. Keogh gave to many of those present a new idea of the long continuity of the development of writing and printing, and showed a finely selected series of slides illustrating his subject. He closed his talk by reading a number of the pious ejaculations with which some of the early manuscript volumes closed, imploring the reader to be careful of the book on which so much devoted and painful labor had been expended, and often calling down curses upon him if he failed to treat the book properly; many pictures of the mediaeval scribes in the process of book-making added vividness to these appeals.

MASSACHUSETTS.

The Friday morning session was in charge of the Massachusetts Library Club, Mr. Harold T. Dougherty, Librarian of the Newton Free Library, President. The first speaker was Mr.

George H. Tripp, of the Free Public Library, New Bedford, who gave with inimitable spirit and humor selections from scores of the delightful Letters of More or Less Famous People; his talk was an epitome of the intimate pleasures of letter-reading. The rest of the morning was occupied by a series of book-reviews, to which had been given the heading of the "Librarians' Bookshop *Intime*"; in the absence of Mr. Truman R. Temple, of the Thomas Crane Public Library, Quincy, who was to have presided over this feature of the meeting, it was placed under the conduct of Mr. Chase, of the Boston Public Library, who is Vice-President of the Club. There were three leading salesmen in the Bookshop, Mr. Frank H. Whitmore, of Brockton, in charge of the Travel Counter, who reviewed the five leading books of travel of the year; Miss Anna G. Hall, of the H. R. Hunting Company, Springfield, who gave a very useful and pithy resumé of important recent fiction; and Miss Alice M. Jordan, of the Boston Public Library, who presented an admirable conspectus of the newer children's books, under the caption "Rootabaga and other Countries." The talks were very helpful, and will aid many librarians in the intelligent selection of books.

A ROUND OF VISITS.

So much for the regular sessions; but most of those in attendance felt that, even more than these sessions, the exercises of the two afternoons were what gave to the Conference its special significance and value. Providence is the seat of libraries of great variety and richness; it is also possessed of a fine spirit of hospitality. The local committee had arranged that the two afternoons should be spent in visits, under conduct, to the chief libraries of the city; Thursday afternoon was devoted to those on College Hill, and Friday afternoon to the City group. Ten libraries in all were included in the itineraries, and at each one the visitors were made at home, and were shown the features and treasures of the institution by members of

its staff. At the Athenaeum we saw, aside from the comfortable old building, at once homelike and efficient, the valuable fine arts collection and the priceless relics of Poe and Mrs. Whitman, who used to meet here. At the library of Col. George L. Shepley, in its uniquely attractive building attached to his house, the owner showed us many rare treasures connected with the history of Rhode Island, including the original log of a slave-ship and the scalp of a Narragansett Indian, which we unsuspectingly handled before we were admitted to its secret. At the Annmary Brown Memorial, erected by Gen. Rush C. Hawkins in memory of his wife, we saw, in addition to the gallery of paintings, some of them very beautiful, the collection of early printed books — "The first books of the first printers in the different cities and towns of Europe, before the year 1500" — splendidly arranged and displayed, which is perhaps the finest and most instructive exhibition of early printing, in specimens of remarkable freshness and beauty, to be seen in America.

THE JOHN CARTER BROWN LIBRARY.

The John Carter Brown Library, in many respects the premier collection of early Americana in this country, showed us many priceless treasures, including Columbus and Vespucci letters, some of them in marvelous bindings which took years to complete; the original Waldseemüller map, in which the name America was first used; Champlain's manuscript account of his discoveries in America, with remarkable paintings of the products of the New World; and some very lovely manuscript Books of Hours, with exquisite miniature paintings. The John Hay Library admitted us to its unique collection of American poetry, and its remarkable Napoleoniana, recently acquired by gift, including a portrait of himself carried by Napoleon on his last campaigns. At the Rhode Island State Library we were initiated into the mysteries of bill-drafting, which forms the special function of this library; and in the Providence Public Library we saw the workings of a finely equipped

and administered institution, second only to our own among the free public libraries of New England.

All told, the Conference was a notable occasion and a fine opportunity. No one who went regretted that he had done so. More of us from Boston ought to know the resources of the Providence libraries, and to feel the hospitable spirit of their librarians.

F. H. C.

BUSINESS INFORMATION.

The meeting of the Special Libraries Association, held on the evening of January 22 at the office of the Tel-U-Where Company, was very fruitful of ideas. The topic, "How to get up-to-date information on business subjects," was treated by ten business librarians, each of whom told of resources which he had personally found helpful.

Mr. L. A. Armistead, of the Boston Elevated Railway Co., said that it was very important for the librarian to have full information both as to what his employers are doing and what they are planning to do. This knowledge frequently enables him to prepare effectively for the coming needs of the company. Mr. Armistead receives the reports of all department heads, and on the basis of these he assembles the material which is likely to be useful. In seeking such material it is very important to get at ultimate official sources of information as far as possible. Mr. Armistead is in direct touch with many heads of departments at City Hall and the State House, and with certain bureaus of the United States government. He finds the library of the Engineering Society, of New York City, one of his best resources, as Dr. Craver, its librarian, usually has the last word on engineering subjects. Mr. Armistead maintains a collection of back numbers of magazines in his field, covering about ten years, and is glad to help other librarians with single copies on request.

Mr. James P. Heaton, of the Chamber of Commerce, suggested the importance of knowing a few tools

thoroughly. He confines his reference books to a small number, which he uses intensively.

Miss Marion G. Eaton, of the Federal Reserve Bank, spoke of the value of the monthly bulletin published by the League of Nations, which supplies useful statistics for foreign countries. She also spoke of the excellent indexes of the *London Economist* and the *Commercial and Financial Chronicle*, of which, with its predecessors, the Bank has a file going back to 1839. Miss Eaton is inclined to prefer official sources of information to compilations like the *Statesman's Year Book*, which, she says, "fears gaps more than mistakes."

A NEW CHEMICAL LIST.

Mr. William P. Cutter, who has recently become librarian of Arthur D. Little, Inc., spoke of the value of the recent "Union List of Chemical Periodicals in American Libraries," published by the American Chemical Society,* showing the libraries in which these periodicals are to be found; as Boston's needs in the chemical field are limited, most of them have to be sought elsewhere. Mr. Cutter stressed the desirability of a wider use of the photostat for library purposes. He further emphasized the importance of patent claims, which, he said, can be depended on as statements of fact; "Inventors may publish their ideas in periodicals, but in their patent claims they are obliged to make exact statements."

Miss Laura R. Gibbs, of the Tel-U-Where Company, described the methods employed by that company, and said that they now have on file about thirty thousand trade names, ten thousand manufacturers with their specialties and about twelve thousand special information cards. They are glad to answer all telephone calls with regard to trade articles.

Mr. George W. Lee, Librarian of Stone and Webster, gave a very suggestive conspectus of the needs and resources of his library. It was so full of ideas that we hope to treat it in a special article later on.

* This list, under the title "List of Periodicals Abstracted," appears in *Chemical Abstracts*, vol. 16, no. 20, Oct. 20, 1922.

An interesting meeting of the Special Libraries Association will be held on Monday evening, February 26, at eight o'clock, at the Boston School of Filing on the seventh floor of the Little Building. Mrs. Eugenia Chick will tell of the work of the School, of which she is principal, and Mr. Lawrence P. Morse, head of the Research Department of the Babson Statistical Organization, will speak on Business Facts, their Organization and Interpretation. Mr. Morse's address should be of special value, and the Association invites all librarians who are interested to attend the meeting.

LIBRARY SPIRIT CLUB.

On Friday evening, January 12, in the Staff Lecture Room, the latest addition to the Library's social circle was inaugurated in the Library Spirit Club.

The special aim of the Club is to make the younger members of the Staff better acquainted by means of social evenings together. From such acquaintance it is believed that coöperation, more efficient work and a better spirit will result. The Club is not to be run in opposition to any organizations now existing, but rather to supplement their work by covering that part of the field which at present they fail to reach.

The first business meeting was held on Friday evening, January 12. The Committee on Organization, consisting of Messrs. Graham and Manning, and Misses Kernan, McDonough and Edith von Schoppe, had charge of this meeting. Mr. Graham explained the object of the Club and presided until the officers were chosen: Thomas Manning, President; Arthur Buckley, Vice-President; Mary McDonough, Secretary; Edith von Schoppe, Treasurer; Advisory Board, William Graham, Arthur Buckley and Mary McCready. The following were appointed as a committee to draw up a constitution: Mary McDonough, Mary McCready, Alice Kernan, William Buckley, Thomas Manning and William

Graham. Miss Macurdy was chaperone on this occasion.

The first social meeting was held in the Staff Lecture Room on Friday evening, January 26. The evening was occupied with games and dancing, and refreshments were provided. Misses Alice Barry and Edith von Schoppe rendered piano selections for the dancing and singing. Mr. Robert Dixon acted as chaperone.

VALENTINE PARTY.

The Club held a Valentine Party on Monday evening, February 12; the Staff Lecture Room was appropriately decorated for the occasion. Features of the evening were the biscuit-eating contest, a pushball contest won by William Graham, and the reading, by Mary McDonough, of some very clever cards, in which each verse was put together so as to describe some prominent trait of the person alluded to. Then followed the distribution of comic valentines, which caused a great deal of merriment. The music for the evening was provided by Edith Daly, violinist, and Dorothy Gay, pianist. Refreshments were served, and the evening closed with dancing. Mr. Pierce Buckley acted as chaperone.

Membership in the Club is open to any employee of the Library, and all are invited to join. The dues are twenty-five cents a month. J. E. K.

BOWLING.

Tuesday evening, January 23, the second bowling party of the season was held at the South Boston Yacht Club. Twenty-seven members of the staff were present. Mr. James Sullivan made the highest three-string total of the season, 291. An excellent supper was served. Prizes were awarded to Misses Florence Sullivan, Flora Ennis, Alice Kernan, and Elizabeth Kernachan, and Messrs. James Sullivan, Harry Schromm, James E. Kennedy and Merton Wheelock. Everyone pronounced the party a complete success.

There will be another bowling party for all Library employees at the South Boston Yacht Club on Thursday eve-

ning, March 1. Supper will be served at seven o'clock, and bowling will start at eight. The bowling teams will be drawn at the supper table. The party will be in charge of the following committee, who will be glad to receive the names and subscriptions (\$1.00 each, to cover expense of both bowling and supper) of all those who plan to be present: James E. Kennedy, May Burke, William Clegg, John J. O'Brien. Come direct from work.

STAFF CLUB.

On Thursday evening, January 18, in the Staff Lecture Room, Mr. Frank H. Chase gave an interesting informal talk on some of the more useful books for the study of American Literature. After outlining the value of the standard books which he had gathered for discussion, he read selected paragraphs from a number of them, to illustrate the style and point of view of the various writers.

THE PLAY.

On January 24, at the mid-winter meeting of the Staff Club, the committee in charge presented the Club's fourth dramatic production, entitled "Where Shall We Go?" by Henri Lavedan. The cast of characters was as follows: M. Devain, Frank H. Chase; Mme. Devain, Alice M. Jordan; their daughters: Germaine, Esther Lissner; Jeanne, Mary E. Prim; Louise, Bessie L. Doherty; Agatha, Edith A. von Schoppe; Blanche, Harriet J. Kelleher.

The cast, which had been carefully rehearsed by Miss Christine Hayes, gave an effective performance of what was a seemingly simple play. Mr. Chase as the easy-going father and Miss Jordan as the responsible French mother appeared as the happy parents of five charming daughters. Mr. Niederauer kindly assisted in mounting the play. The interior decorations, including a most convincing window, were the work of Miss Mary Daly, of the Fine Arts Department. Of the five pink hats, designed and made by Miss Della J. Deery, of the Executive De-

partment, which were wonderful creations, one was sold immediately after the performance, and others later. Before the play, Miss Olympia M. Cella contributed vocal selections, and Miss Mildred Racioppi, a dance.

The hospitality committee, consisting of Misses Mary C. Sheridan, Katharine Gorham and Veronica Hession, had prepared delicious refreshments, consisting of tea, sandwiches and candy; they were served by the "Misses Devain" of the play. The arrangements were in charge of a committee consisting of Mr. Frank C. Blaisdell and Misses Mary F. Curley, Mary H. Daly, Della J. Deery, Christine Hayes, and Eleanor M. Mulcahey.

At the next meeting of the Staff Club, to be held Tuesday evening, February 20, at 7.45 in the Staff Lecture Room, Mr. John Clair Minot, literary editor of the *Boston Herald*, will address the club on contemporary books. For this meeting each club member may invite a guest.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

At the request of Mr. Belden, President Maier of the Benefit Association has appointed two committees to confer with the Librarian in regard to future courses of instruction for the members of the staff. One of these committees, representing the employees who are engaged in the handling of books, consists of Miss Bessie Doherty, of the Branch Department; Miss Anna Manning, of the Children's Room; Miss Elizabeth McShane, of Codman Square; Mr. William F. A. Graham, of the Catalogue Department; and Mr. Harry W. Mathews, of Bates Hall. To the second committee, representing the mechanical forces of the Library, have been appointed Messrs. John J. Griffin and Thomas J. Murphy, of the Engineers' Department, and Mr. William A. Swan, of the Bindery.

THE ANNUAL PARTY.

Though still in the throes of counting tickets, money paid for tickets, money *not* — yet! — paid for tickets,

the Entertainment Committee of the Benefit Association pauses a moment and pats itself on the back. The Whist Party and Dance held February 9, at Catholic Union Hall, was a decided success, not only socially but financially as well. In addition to the money received through the sale of tickets, donations for relief purposes were received from Monsignor Arthur T. Connolly, Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, and from Mr. Louis E. Kirstein.

Fifty-two people gathered at half past eight to play whist. There were seventeen attractive prizes bought with money contributed by members of the Association. Of Association members and their relatives, the lucky winners were: Mrs. Emil Hofman, 30 points; Mrs. W. C. Connell, 27 points; Miss Beatrice M. Flanagan, 27 points; Miss Isabel Finkleman, 26 points; Mr. George V. Aker, 26 points; Mr. Harry Schromm, 23 points; Mr. William O' Hara, 23 points.

Meanwhile, other members of the Association and their friends were dancing in the hall above. The music, furnished by O'Leary's Orchestra, was excellent. In the course of the evening our own William Clegg took over the direction of the orchestra, while playing his violin. The prize-winners in the novelty dance were Miss Alice Kernan and John J. O'Brien, who were discovered, when the music suddenly stopped, dancing alone with a broom, like Cinderella.

While it is regretted that not all the members of the Association were present, those who did come appeared to enjoy themselves thoroughly. Next year may we have even a larger party!

M. E. P.

THE SICK LIST.

The following members are absent on account of illness: Annie Flynn, of the Bindery; Emily O. Frinsdorff, Ordering Department; Martha L. C. Berry, Roxbury Branch; Ellen A. Eaton, South Boston Branch; Helen Hilton, Branch Department. Miss Hilton, who recovered from an illness in January, is now recuperating in

Chester, N. H. Miss Annie Twomey, Issue Department, and Mr. Joseph Ward, Shelf Department, are back at work.

A PLAN FOR SAVING.

It may be worth while to call attention to the fact that the Association is qualified to render its members service in systematic savings. In order to estimate, approximately, the accumulations of regular savings, put at compound interest, the following figures have been computed from the interest tables printed in the "World Almanac":

One Dollar a Week Saved, at 4 per cent. compound interest, amounts to:

5 years	\$283.92	20 years	\$1619.92
10 years	\$648.96	30 years	\$3032.64
15 years	\$1082.64	40 years	\$5138.64

It is to be noted that under the Retirement Act the City will return the deductions from salary, with interest at four per cent., on demand at any time *before* retirement from the service; but *after* retirement the pensioner cannot withdraw the deductions, but will receive only his retirement allowance, which is sure to seem small. Additional dollars must, for most of us, come from savings made in some way during the working years.

How few make regular deposits in a savings bank, and how easy it is to hand a definite sum, once a week, to our Treasurer or Financial Secretary!

We all did this regularly in paying for Liberty Bonds during the war. If there is a handy place, we pay and never miss it; if not, we don't save the money. Would not a small capital be a welcome resource after we cease to draw our salaries, in addition to the retirement allowance? Does not a plan providing for such a capital seem desirable? The Association is an ideal organization for effecting such a plan, and can perform this service legally, without incorporation, and without disturbing, in any way, the General Fund or the Trust Fund; it could probably pay 4½ per cent. If the members desire, the outline of a plan can be presented with the revised sections of the Constitution.

L. E. T.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume II, No. 6

March 15, 1923

CONTENTS.

SITTING OPPOSITE MR. LOCKE	61	MEMORIAL TO SAM WALTER FOSS	71
THE LIBRARY MAGAZINES	62	A REFERENCE LIBRARIAN	71
PENSION QUESTION BOX	63	GIFTS	71
CHILDREN'S BOOKS	64	COMING EVENTS	72
GYPSY BOOKS	64	LIBRARY SALARIES	72
THE HARVARD LIBRARY	67	EXHIBITIONS	73
TEN-BOOK LISTS	67	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON	74
EDITORIALS	68	"AT IT AGAIN"	75
NEWS NOTES	69	STAFF CLUB	75
WASHINGTONIANA	71	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	75

SITTING OPPOSITE MR. LOCKE.

Is there any one employed in the Boston Public Library, whose business it is to look up titles, who has not experienced the temporary catalogue? You go to the official catalogue as a matter of principle, because you intend to do the right thing; you even delve among the subject headings with rather elaborate care. You hover lightly over Mr. Chevalier's box. You finger the imposing bulk of the order drawer so as to be able to make out a good case for yourself, if need be. But in the end you come to grips with the temporary catalogue. Here, especially if the book you are trying to find is new or recently added to the Library, is the acid test. What you seek may not be in the official catalogue for one reason or another. But whether it is "in the temporary" you must know anyway. And knowing "the temporary" means or has meant now for some years past, knowing Mr. Locke.

When I went into the Catalogue Room with the first handful of approval slips that I had to examine, I came in due course to the oracle of "the temporary," and there, sitting opposite me at the table, was Mr.

Locke. Before him was a mighty volume composed of countless titles to each of which he affixed a shelf-number traced in delicately-made figures. It was a seemingly endless task, and once, as he glanced up at me, he remarked serenely that he did not expect to live to see it completed. He finished that volume and two others like it, I believe, and meanwhile, with those of us who came to consult the temporary catalogue, he would pass the time of day.

Sometimes his topic was old age. The passing of a birthday often set him thinking of that. Age was a handicap, of course. No one could deny that it was unattractive. And then what? He would explain how necessary it was to take increasing pains to keep one's self attractive as one grew older. So far from relaxing personal care and making old age an excuse for it, one's efforts to be fastidious should be redoubled. Then he would point to a new necktie he had just bought or the pattern of a shirt that he thought pretty, or even bring out a few samples of material for a white suit to be ordered for next summer's vacation in Castine.

His faculty for the domestic was a

matter of pride with him. He had once been told that his ability was wasted in a library. He should have been a *chef*. And he would give his receipt for rice pop-overs that, with some of us in the Library, have come to be a breakfast-table favorite, not less popular because it was first whispered by Mr. Locke across the arid waste of the temporary catalogue. He always bought his Thanksgiving turkey and had it with him on the Wednesday afternoon before the holiday, while he commented wisely on the scale of prices and we looked admiringly at the size of the bulky bundle. About his knitting, which revived with the War, he had real enthusiasm. While he showed us a succession of firmly knit squares, symmetrical as if done by machine, he would tell how only the night before he had sat up till half-past one, enticed by the lure of the pattern and heedless of advice that it was time to go to bed. Then, he would drop into war-time reminiscences. In the sunny quiet of the Catalogue Room, he would recall soldiers going into battle in the Civil War; how men crawled on their hands through the underbrush with the whistle of bullets all round them through the air; how they looked, and how the fear shone in their eyes. Once some one suggested publication. Such experiences as his were worth it. But no. "I was never anxious to rush into print," said Mr. Locke, and that was the end of that.

Sometimes there was a photograph of John Locke, 3d, to be handed across the table for inspection. Sometimes it was a bit of color on a girl's dress. "Should you mind if an old man told you how much he liked the blue of your gown?" he would ask. Or, perhaps it was a concert, where Julia Culp, whom he admired greatly, had sung. Whatever it was, youth, color, music, all were a joy to him and a joy that was undimmed with the passing years. To any one who has grumbled in secret or aloud over the discomforts of local transportation, late trains, inconvenient schedules, or any of the thousand mischances that occur in getting about, it was a lesson to hear Mr. Locke tell on

the following morning how he had missed an eleven o'clock trolley car in Melrose the night before. Pouring rain it was, he was alone, and with the rear platform of the car receding from view, he fell to laughing, boarded the next car, the last one, half an hour later and reached home soon after one o'clock, drenched, but with high courage. Then, after doing for himself what he could to ward off the ill effects of wet weather, he admonished himself with, "There, you old body! I've done the best I could for you. Now, you behave!"

Occasionally, it appeared that this body did go back on him, and then the "temporary" was left deserted for some days, or perhaps weeks. But, always he came back smiling, undaunted, ready to greet us as we paused before the ever-diminishing, ever-expanding "temporary" in search of a title.

On the morning of the day before Christmas there would be a little time when you would not find Mr. Locke at the temporary catalogue. But if you looked down the room you could see him going about from desk to desk, in his arms a great cornucopia filled with blossoms, and dropping at each one's place a red rose or a Star of Bethlehem, with a Merry Christmas.

To-day "the temporary" sits alone. With each new influx of cards, it grows in bulk as of old, and shrinks again as these in turn are printed and go their way into the official ranks. Across the table is a square of green blotter, and a gay-colored calendar still hangs from the lamp. Mr. Locke has left the Library. The guardian spirit of "the temporary," the spirit that defied old age and failing health, that loved youth and laughter and color and music, that transcended even the temporary catalogue, has gone from us. C. H.

THE LIBRARY MAGAZINES.

The report of the A. L. A. Salaries Committee, presented at the Chicago meeting of the Council in December, opens the issue of the *Library Journal* for January 15. Everyone should read

this important report, which covers the whole question of minimum salaries for library assistants, in its relations to the cost of living and to salaries paid in other professions.

In the same number appears a second article on the reference books for 1922, especially valuable for its accurate information on new issues and so-called new editions.

LIBRARY OF CONGRESS.

A brief statistical account of the Library of Congress in 1922 shows a steady growth in that library. It is interesting to note that the year just closed saw the largest year's business in the history of the Copyright Office, the registrations numbering 138,633. Owing to the loss of trained cataloguers the work of that department fell off by some 10,000 titles.

In the February 1st issue of the same magazine, the leading place is given to an article on the National Health Library, a co-operative movement in New York City by which a number of national health organizations have pooled their library interests. The work is still in an experimental stage, but the opportunities seem great. The headquarters are at 370 Seventh Avenue, New York City, where guidance in the selection of books on health and hygiene is freely given.

A highly specialized article on the Service Features of a College of Pharmacy Library, by H. V. Army of Columbia University, offers several useful suggestions in reference work. The information bureau of the Columbia College of Pharmacy seems to be run on ideal lines, if it lives up to its announced program.

The A. L. A. Committee on Standardization, whose name has now been changed to Committee on Schemes of Library Service, makes another report upon graded service, with a sample scheme of grades, from junior assistant to supervisor. This is merely a tentative plan, and suggestions are invited by the chairman, Miss Rathbone of the Pratt Institute Library School.

The number for February 15 is

opened by a four-page article on the Development of the School Library, with special emphasis on work in New York State, written by the State Inspector of School Libraries.

On page 184 are listed the changes made in the eleventh edition of the Decimal Classification, in the picturesque spelling affected by Dr. Dewey and his aides.

PHILADELPHIA'S NEW LIBRARY.

A news note states that the cornerstone of Philadelphia's new public library was laid on January 24. The building will cost about \$4,500,000, and will be one of the largest in the world. Notable features are open-air and glass-enclosed reading rooms on the roof, smoking rooms and dining rooms for the library force.

Two leading articles in *Public Libraries* for February take up the old question of the librarian and his place in the world. Of the two we find Senator Sterling's address the more interesting. This deals with the re-classification of librarians, as embodied in the Sterling-Lehlback bill now pending in Congress. Under this bill fully trained librarians would receive from \$1800 to \$7200 a year, while sub-professional service would command from \$1080 to \$1740: these positions, requiring a lower degree of training, are divided into two grades, with four different salary rates in each grade.

On page 83 is an account of the celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the Chicago Public Library, including a brief résumé of the addresses at the meeting, which shed interesting light on the beginnings of this fine institution.

H. W. M.

PENSION QUESTION BOX.

XIII.

Section 32 of the Boston Retirement Act reads, "Nothing herein contained shall be construed as affecting the provisions of Sections 49-60 inclusive of Chapter 32 of the General Laws"; these sections grant a veteran, under certain conditions, a pension of one-

half pay without contribution on his part. If a veteran of the World War should enter or re-enter the service of the City after February 1, 1923, would he be required to become a member of the Retirement System without claim on any other pension, or would he still be provided for under Section 32, as quoted above?

ANSWER.

A veteran who enters the service of the City after February 1, 1923, is a "new entrant," and becomes a member of the Boston Retirement System as part of his contract of employment, thereby forfeiting any other pension.

XIV.

Does the restriction to fifty per cent of his annual salary of the pension granted to a member for "prior service," as stated in Paragraph (c) of Section 10 of the Retirement Act, apply solely to the contents of this paragraph or to the entire section? If it applies only to the paragraph, would it not be possible for the city to grant, over and above the fifty per cent allowed for prior service, an additional pension for current service up to the time of retirement?

ANSWER.

"The total pension of any member payable under the provisions of this section" does refer to the whole section. The term *pension* applies to the entire amount contributed by the City, covering both prior service and service after Feb. 1, 1923; the *pension* paid may in no circumstances exceed fifty per cent of the average annual salary during the five years preceding retirement. The *annuity* is simply the employee's savings — four per cent of his earnings after Feb. 1, 1923, with interest compounded at four per cent; this is irrespective of and additional to the *pension* paid by the City.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

In response to numerous requests, we reprint below, from the *Publishers' Weekly* for September 2, the list of

books selected by vote at the A. L. A. meeting in Detroit and the N. E. A. meeting in Boston, as the twenty-five best books for the nucleus of a library in a one-room country school.

Mother Goose.

Æsop's Fables.

Child's Garden of Verses, by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Heidi, by Johanna Spyri.

Fairy tales, by Hans Christian Andersen.

Wonder Book for Boys and Girls, by Nathaniel Hawthorne.

Alice in Wonderland and Through the Looking-glass, by Lewis Carroll.

The Jungle Book, by Rudyard Kipling.

The Arabian Nights.

Hans Brinker, by Mary Mapes Dodge.

Robinson Crusoe, by Daniel Defoe.

Home Book of Verse for Children, edited by Burton E. Stevenson.

Rip Van Winkle, by Washington Irving.

Little Women, by Louisa May Alcott.

Merry Adventures of Robin Hood, by Howard Pyle.

Tales from Shakespeare, by Charles and Mary Lamb.

Treasure Island, by Robert Louis Stevenson.

Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm, by Kate Douglas Wiggin.

Wild Animals I have known, by Ernest Thompson Seton.

Boys' King Arthur, by Sidney Lanier.

Boys' Life of Abraham Lincoln, by Helen Nicolay.

Boys' Life of Theodore Roosevelt, by Hermann Hagedorn.

The Christmas Carol, by Charles Dickens.

Adventures of Tom Sawyer, by Mark Twain.

The Story of Mankind, by Hendrik W. Van Loon.

It is of interest to note that Van Loon's "Story of Mankind" was declared by a vote of the Children's Librarians Section of the American Library Association to be the most important book for children published in 1921; out of 212 ballots cast, it received 163, with only 22 for its nearest competitor.

GYPSY BOOKS.

It's the people who write books that make life so hard for us librarians. I don't say it's intentional, but something ought to be done about it. Writers don't seem to realize that in libraries books have to be catalogued and classified. If they did, maybe they'd stick to one subject in a book, and not go rambling around so. Take the biogra-

phy writers. Instead of sticking to facts, like "J. Makepeace Smith was the son of poor but small-town parents," they try to prove that all the thoughts J. thought when alive mean something a whole lot different now, poor man! Psycho-something or other. The history writers are worse. They make it easy to read, like a story — no dates at all. I'm afraid the writers of today are light-minded, very different from the improving God-fearing authors and authoresses of earlier times.

Only a short time ago, a lady came into a Boston library, where there is an open-shelf room, and she found a book entitled "The Wind in the Willows," and it was classified as Science. She wrote a pitiful letter to the *Boston Transcript* about it. I am quite in sympathy with the lady, and I think Mr. Kenneth Grahame has a lot to answer for. She wrote a poem, too. It goes like this: "Methought" (I always like a poem to start off with Methought or Methinks) —

"Methought I came upon a place
Unspoiled by man, unsoiled and nameless.
The poorest weed had elfin grace,
The very path was glad and tameless."

By that she meant the book or maybe the room, where she found the book classified so incorrectly. I've been in that room a lot, and I found it "elfin," to say the least. It's not a bit the way you'd expect a library to be; and the classification is certainly not Dewey or Cutter.

There's no reason why "The Wind in the Willows" should be classified as Science, anyway. There are twenty other classes, and the book could have gone in almost any one of them. Parts of that book are even like poetry, except it's all run together instead of lined off the way poetry is. I suppose the lady who wrote the letter would call it a nature book. She seemed fond of nature. Her poem was about "mimic estuary" and "wavelet" and "flower-filled grass" and a road, "its whim was hide and seek by wood and meadow."

Whenever any one writes about a road that has a "whim" to go somewhere, I always know it's a nature

book. And almost always the people who write them live in the city and yearn to get closer to Nature's heart, which is always the country or what the lady's poem calls the World of Wonder.

Well, what I meant to say was, there's no special label "Nature" over any books in that open-shelf room and that throws people off. People know nature's improving, and they look for it. There is a book there called "The Story of My Heart." It's kind of a nature book in some ways, but it's religious, too, and sort of historical; but it's called "The Story of My Heart," so it ought to be classified as Biography, not Science.

On the Biography shelves is "The Book of Daniel Drew, a Glimpse of the Fisk-Gould-Tweed Régime from the Inside." Now that's what I mean by an author skipping round! It's a life of Mr. Daniel Drew. Well, that's all right; that is biography. It's a very nice biography, too, with lovely hymns all through it. It tells all about how much money Mr. Drew made and how pious he was, and his building the Drew Theological Seminary and all. But then, the Tweed Ring was politics, so why isn't the book on the Politics shelves, or even History?

I'm glad to say that there are a lot of books on Manners and Customs and Travel in that room. Books like that are educational. Reading about a place is next best to seeing it, I think. On the Manners-and-Customs shelves is an odd-looking book by a man named Pedro Alarcón, called "The Three-Cornered Hat." You'd really think it was a story from the looks of it, but the introduction says, "Aside from its purely aesthetic value, the book is a precious document to the student of the history of manners and customs in Spain, both in its lines and in the much that is to be read between them." So, as Manners and Customs, it is classified right after all.

There's another book in the Travel section. It's called "The Sea and the Jungle." The author kind of wanders in his style. Instead of starting right

in describing his trip, as you'd expect, he writes about people he saw in a train. "There was a shy girl in black who never, between our suburb and the city, lifts her shy brown eyes, benedictory as they are at such a time, from the soiled book of the local public library, and whose umbrella has lost half its handle, a china knob. (I think I will write this book for her.)" Imagine! Well, anyway he does get to traveling at last, so I suppose it's in its right place.

Then the Essays! Well, I don't know as I ever saw such a welter in my life. Now, any one knows what an essay is; it's anything On — like On Walking to Church; On Seeing a Robin. Among this collection I speak of, are a number of volumes by a Mr. Dooley. Any one would call that Wit and Humor, I suppose. Well, only a short while ago, I read about how one of those highbrow critics, Mr. Gilbert Seldes, said that the author of Mr. Dooley was "a humorist, a social historian and an every-day philosopher." So, by right, those books should be classified as history or philosophy.

Then there's a thin book called "The Happy Hypocrite" among those essays. If you look into it you find it's a historical tale about a lord and a dancer. There's a lot about mythology in it, and some philosophy. It's surely not an essay! The author, Mr. Max Beer-bohm, calls it "a fairy tale for tired men." There's also a book by Mr. Theodore Dreiser, entitled "Twelve Men." That surely is biography, but there are no dates, and you never find out where they were all born and what their fathers did. It's a peculiar book. When you read it, it seems as if the author were talking to you. Biography never used to be like that, so I suppose it belongs in Essays. Well, if you think of it, essays is another way of saying "attempts." Maybe the books in that collection are the attempts of writers to do things that haven't been done before. Perhaps it's better for libraries to stick to the old things. There are enough little magazines bursting out and encouraging art to be free instead of earnest.

Oh, yes, there was another book the lady who wrote to the *Transcript* found in the open-shelf room, and objected to its being placed next to a fantastical book like "The Wind in the Willows." The other book was called "The Book of Bugs." It sounds stiff and educational. All I can say is, she should look inside. Though it contains every thing possible about bugs, and all facts correct, the work begins with a quotation from Mr. Dooley and ends with a good definition of Coué and his school. "The Book of Bugs" is quite entertaining, though scientific. I must say it rambles enough to fit any one of the twenty other headings. I was speaking about it to another lady I met in that room, and she said, "What difference does it make how books are classified, as long as people can get at them!" But she was one of the public, not a librarian.

The letter and poem referred to above were printed in Mr. King's "Librarian" column in the *Boston Transcript*, February 7, 1923. We are grateful for permission to reprint them.

Dear Librarian:— In the open shelf room of a library not a hundred miles from the Transcript office Grahame's "Wind in the Willows" stands in the section devoted to Science, flanked by a study of the lion and "The Book of Bugs." Since all the books in this room are lettered to indicate the section they are intended to occupy, this is not a displacement by the dear public. The writer looked in vain for "Red Riding-Hood" and "Nights with Uncle Remus," but probably they were out. When she went home she wrote this tribute. The reference to the D. C. is poetic license, for the library in question does not use this classification.

Very truly yours,

A GRAHAMITE.

Methought I came upon a place

Unspoiled by man, unsoiled and nameless.
The poorest weed had elfin grace;

The very path was glad and tameless.

No dull, pedestrian way, its whim

Was hide and seek by wood and meadow.

At last it sought a river's brim

And paused beneath the willow's shadow.

I loitered by that waterside

And heard along those shimmering reaches
Soft cries, inblent, unclassified,

Leaf—, water—, beast—, and clear bird-
speeches.

Yet ever with a fuller tone

One heard the summer winds make merry
Till every wavelet danced and shone
Within the mimic estuary.

"'Tis May, May, May!" the chorus cried.

It sped the willow branches under
And blew the flower-filled grass aside,
And drew me—to the World of Wonder.

For there they sat—my friends of yore,
As joyous and alive as ever,
Apicnic by that happy shore
Where Age and Death and Pain come
never.

Dry, spare of tongue, stout Badger sat
And carved a pie of shape colossal,
And near him toiled, sans coat and hat,
Old Toad with much unneeded bustle.

His smoking jacket laid aside,
Mole set to work upon the salad,
But Rat, with bright eyes wrapped and wide,
Was softly touching up a ballad.

And all the Otter family
Were there, including Baby Portly.
"Now, now," I breathed, "I'll surely see
The great god Pan—and hear him shortly."

And so I might, but lo, there rose
A figure from the wind-shock cover,
With modern clothes and shell-bridged nose.
He looked the merry gathering over.

I wondered how he'd found the way
To Elfland with the strongest glasses.
His place was with the A. L. A.,
Or struggling to uplift the masses.

Quoth I, "What make you hereabout,
Where Charm and Nonsense meet and
marry?
And would you find their secrets out
By conning o'er that book you carry?"

He gazed, then searched the staid "D. C.",
And then he smiled in calm reliance:
"You may dissent, but as for ME,
I'd classify then under Science."

THE HARVARD LIBRARY.

The annual report of the Director of the Harvard University Library was made public on February 4. During the past year 95,000 books and pamphlets were added to the collection, bringing the total number to 2,187,000. Mr. Coolidge says that "the Harvard Library is probably the largest university collection of libraries in existence. It possesses fewer bibliographical rarities and far fewer manuscripts, but it is better rounded out than almost any of the great European libraries, perhaps than any except the British Museum

and possibly Berlin.* In the general average of its quality it is, we believe, the first among the large libraries of the United States."

Mr. Coolidge has this to say of our own Library: "During the last few years the library of Harvard has outstripped in growth the Boston Library, which passed it in the 70's; indeed, Widener alone now contains a larger, as well as a more valuable, collection of books than does the central collection in Boston. This does not alter the fact that Harvard is under immense obligations to the Boston Public Library, whose rich resources have been placed at the disposal of our students and instructors for generations; and this generosity is one important reason for our conviction that in the combination of wealth of material and facility of research the Harvard Library, aided as it is from outside, is without equal anywhere."

TEN-BOOK LISTS.

From December to March many of the Ten-book Lists were based upon the subjects of the Library lectures. The list is as follows: Collections of Plays, by Michael J. Conroy; Ancient Egypt, by Ashton Sanborn, Librarian of the Museum of Fine Arts, in connection with his lecture, "Opening the tombs of Ethiopian kings"; Boston in Fiction, by Miss Martha A. S. Shannon, for her lecture of the same title; The Theory and Appreciation of Poetry, by Horace G. Wadlin, Litt.D., for his lecture, "What is poetry to you?"; Washington and Lincoln, Essays of 1922, Recent wit and humor, by L. E. Taylor; and City planning and zoning, by Miss Elisabeth M. Herlihy, Secretary of the Boston City Planning Board, in connection with her lecture on "City planning." The lists on The Near East and The Symphony Concert were reprinted in the January *Bulletin* of the Massachusetts Library Club, and that on The Symphony Concert in the 13th programme of the Boston Symphony Orchestra, January 26.

* The Royal Library.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. II, No. 6.

March 15, 1923

MR. FLEISCHNER.

The new Retirement System has its sombre side. It is hard to realize that Mr. Fleischner is to leave us so soon. During the past thirty years, no one man has played a more intimate part in the history of the Library; none has touched more closely the life and work of the entire staff. His going will leave a gap which will never again be filled just as he filled it. He will carry with him the affection and best wishes of everyone connected with the Library.

"THE LIBRARY TEACHER."

The children who flock the branch libraries are right in calling the library attendants "teachers"; the little ones recognize the attitude to which they are accustomed in school — the patient interest, the skill in discipline, the steady hand and voice, the responsible kindness. The Retirement Board classes librarians as clerks, the world decrees that their salaries shall be lower than those given to teachers, but the children know!

The library, it has often been said, is the people's university. School-days are numbered, for all of us, even those who carry their studies furthest; but library-days may last through life. The best education is that which one gets by his own impulse; to a certain extent, we are all self-made. And the library is Everyman's aid in this self-education. The school lays the foundation, but it is the library which gives us the material for the superstructure which we may build upon it.

The librarian, then, is the teacher of Everyman. The school-teacher has his own restricted sphere — he teaches one subject, or the studies of a single grade; his classes are homogenous, all of the same age, often all of the same sex; he chooses his subject-matter and directs the course of his pupils. The teacher has authority over the children committed to him, and can enforce discipline.

The librarian lacks these advantages. He stands at the door, waiting for Everyman with his problems and questions. The children crowd in, and he has no authority; the pupils choose the courses, and expect service. The classes — there are no classes; the librarian deals with individuals, no two alike, no two wanting the same thing, and all in a hurry.

But there are compensations. The librarian is a free man, not fettered to a rigid system. His relations with those who come are personal, and his work with each is individual work. He does not choose his subjects, but on the other hand, there is no monotony in his work, it is full of the most interesting variety. When he is tired, he does not have to push his classes. Those who come furnish the motive power; their eager need is an encouragement and a stimulant. And every now and then, he has a student who draws him on, and gives him a real impetus to wider thinking or richer living.

So, though we may be clerks to some, and though our educational work still fails of its full money-value, underneath all our disguises we know — we and the children — that we are teachers.

A little less than a year ago, the Library bade farewell to that sweet-souled gentleman, John F. Locke. LIBRARY LIFE is glad to print in this issue Miss Hayes's article of sympathetic reminiscence, written soon after Mr. Locke left us, and read last fall at a meeting of the Staff Club. We all rejoice that Mr. Locke retains his usual health, and that his gracious smile is still unclouded.

The other long article in this issue was handed to the editor over the romantic signature, "Miss Abby Mitchin, assistant-at-large, Ezra Beezley Free Public Library, 1901-1904." The homely unconsciousness of Miss Mitchin's style gives to her contribution a quaint flavor, which, we believe, only enhances the force of her reflections.

PENSION PROBLEMS.

LIBRARY LIFE is deeply grateful to the Boston Retirement Board for its interest in the Pension Question Box. The answers given have all been submitted to the Executive Officer of the Board, Mr. William F. Reagan, who has been most patient; in every case they have represented his judgment regarding the probable procedure of the Board, as given at the time of publication. Many questions have not yet reached their final solution, and members of the Library staff are cautioned against relying too fully on the answers given in the Pension Question Box, without consulting the Retirement Board, whose interpretation of the Act is subject to progressive modification as new problems arise shedding fresh light on the possible effects of the Act.

This paper is engaged in an earnest effort to aid its readers in their perplexities about the operation of the Retirement Act; but it must be remembered that its answers are not conclusive. In many cases, a careful study of the pamphlet issued by the Board, "What the Boston Retirement System does," will answer one's questions; beyond this, only the Board can give an authoritative decision.

In this connection it may be well to call attention to an editorial statement in the February number of LIBRARY LIFE, which is not strictly accurate. In speaking of the City as giving us "one hundred and eight per cent on our savings," it was not the intention to suggest that the annual rate of interest is 108 per cent, which would be almost beyond the dreams of Ponzi. At the end of one year after each dollar is deducted from

our salary, there will be to our credit in the City treasury, on account of that dollar, the sum of \$2.08; in the first year, that is, our savings earn one hundred and eight per cent. This is not true of later years.

It was the purpose of the article in question to emphasize the fact that, while the United States paid us four per cent on our savings, the City first doubles our savings, and then pays us four per cent on this doubled amount.

NEWS NOTES.

The staff of the Library extends warm sympathy to Miss Mary E. Dornan, of the Bindery, who has recently lost her father.

Mr. Belden was the guest of the Boston Authors' Club at their meeting on February 13th, where he gave an address on "The Reading of Modern Poetry."

We are sorry to report that Miss Mary Doyle, of the Central Children's Room, has not yet returned from her long absence caused by ill-health. Miss Doyle has been at Centre Harbor, N. H. for the past month, and has found even more snow there than here. She is expected home soon.

Of the seventeen who took the examination given at the close of the Tuesday course in Reference Work, four obtained marks above 85 per cent; these were, in order, Edith A. Daly, Fine Arts Department; Katharine E. McGah, Issue Department; Nazera S. Tradd, West End Branch; Frances Maletz, Warren Street Branch.

Who shall say that the Boston Public Library is behind the times? A number of the ten-book lists issued by the Library have been included in the broadcasts of Amrad, WGI, the station of the American Radio & Research Corporation at Medford Hillside.

Among the visitors to the Library during the past month were the Very Rev. Albert V. Baillie, Dean of Wind-

sor; Mrs. Edwin A. Abbey; and Miss Anna L. Sawyer, formerly reference librarian of the San Francisco Public Library.

On Friday, February 23, Sister Miriam and Sister Miriam Patricia visited the Library with an enthusiastic group of twenty-five young ladies from Mt. St. Joseph's Academy, Brighton, and were conducted over the building.

Miss Jordan spoke on the *Work of a Children's Librarian* at the Girls' School of Milton Academy on February 23.

An examination for Grade E in the Library service was held on Saturday February 24. Nearly two hundred boys and girls presented themselves.

The Library has lately received as a loan a copy of a large oil painting made by Sol. Eytinge, Jr., the famous illustrator of Dickens, for "Every other Saturday." It portrays Mr. Pickwick sitting on a knoll under a tree. Beside him stands Sam Weller, pointing to a great parade of Dickens's characters, including all the well-known favorites, from Mr. Dombey to Mr. Sikes's dog.

The picture, which was painted by Mr. Henry B. Kelley, of Dorchester, brother-in-law of Miss Orcutt, of the Jamaica Plain Branch, now belongs to the Boston Branch of the Dickens Fellowship, and has been lent to the Branch Department through the kindly efforts of Mrs. A. Lincoln Bowles, Secretary of the Fellowship. It is now at the West Roxbury Branch, where it hangs in the lecture hall. Later on it will be transferred to some other branch. It is expected that the picture will be of special value in connection with story-telling.

By a recent rule, which makes somewhat more liberal the conditions for the issue of library cards to new residents of the city, regular cards, not restricted in any way, may now be issued, at the discretion of the Chief of the Registration Department, to all such persons as furnish satisfactory references and declare over their signa-

ture that they are now living in Boston and intend to become permanent residents of the city.

With the opening of the year 1923, the H. W. Wilson Company made a number of additions to the list of periodicals indexed in its various publications. To the *Readers' Guide* have been added:

American Journal of Public Health.
Congressional Digest.
Drama.
Freeman.
Literary Review.
National Education Association Journal.
Radio Broadcast.
School Arts Magazine.

Of these, the Central Library takes all but *The Freeman*.

The additions to the *Industrial Arts Index* are eleven in number; of these the Library has only two — the *Textile Colorist* and the *Journal of the Society of Chemical Industry*.

An excellent reproduction of the portrait of the Rev. Jedediah Morse, recently given to the Library, appeared in the *Boston Globe* for March 2.

The following changes have been made in the personnel of libraries in the neighborhood of Boston: Miss Marian Price has been appointed librarian of the Parlin Memorial Library at Everett; Miss Gladys Hastings fills the new position of Supervisor of Children's Work in the Somerville Public Library; and Mr. Leslie T. Little, who has been assistant librarian of the Social Law Library, succeeds Mr. O. C. Davis as librarian at Waltham.

In the January bulletin of the Massachusetts Library Club were published a number of very useful book lists. These included one on "The United States in World Politics," by Professor Raymond G. Gettell, of Amherst College; a list of "Law Books for a Public Library," by Dr. G. E. Wire, librarian of the Worcester County Law Library; and one of books on Psychoanalysis and Applied Psychology, "a list for libraries," by Dr. F. L. Wells, of the Boston Psychopathic Hospital.

It was announced last month that three donors, two of them trustees of the New York Public Library, had made the unexampled gift of \$6,000,000 to the endowment fund of that library's reference department. From our place in the shade we greet and congratulate our great sister-library.

WASHINGTONIANA.

Mr. W. U. Lewisson, of the Shreve, Crump & Low Co., a constant user of the Library, has achieved a labor of love in his collection of Washingtoniana, recently acquired by the Henry E. Huntington Library of San Gabriel, Cal. Since 1900, Mr. Lewisson has made the search for Washington items his pastime, and has collected and catalogued 5,000 books, pamphlets and broadsides, and 7,000 excerpts. The former alone are three or four times as numerous as the Washington collections of the Library of Congress or of the New York Public Library. It is understood that the books will remain in the Huntington Library as a unit, to be known as the Walter Updike Lewisson Collection, and always accessible to any reader. Mr. Lewisson gives cordial praise for the assistance of the Boston Public Library in building up the collection. He is justly very happy in the final disposition of his treasures, and he has our warmest congratulations.

MEMORIAL TO SAM WALTER FOSS.

"The House by the Side of the Road" is the name of the memorial to Sam Walter Foss, late librarian of Somerville, to be built at 68 College Avenue, near the West Somerville Branch Library, as one of the units of the group of buildings belonging to the Park Avenue Methodist Episcopal Church. The building will have recreational, social and educational features, and will be used as a demonstration centre for scientific methods by the students of the Boston University

School of Religious Education. The name of the memorial is taken from the title of Mr. Foss's best-known poem, of which the refrain is

Let me live in my house by the side of the
road,
And be a friend to man.

A REFERENCE LIBRARIAN.

At times behind a desk he sits,
At times about the room he flits.
Folks interrupt his perfect ease
By asking questions such as these:
"How tall was prehistoric man?"
"How old, I pray, was Sister Ann?"
"What should one do if cats have fits?"
"What woman first invented mitts?"
"Who said 'To Labor is to Pray'?"
"How much did Daniel Lambert weigh?"
"How do you spell it, 'wo,' or 'woe'?"
"What is the fare to Kokomo?"
"Is Clark's name really, truly Champ?"
"Can you lend me a postage-stamp?"
"Have you the rhymes of Edward Lear?"
"What wages do they give you here?"
"What dictionary is the best?"
"Did Brummel wear a satin vest?"
"Which is the tall one, Jcff or Mutt?"
"Why can't we have that window shut?"
"How do you spell 'anaemic,' please?"
"What is a Gorgonzola cheese?"
"Who ferries souls across the Styx?"
"What is the square of 96?"
"Are oysters good to eat in March?"
"Are green bananas full of starch?"
"Where is that book I used to see?"
"I guess you don't remember me?"
"Haf you der Hohenzollernspiel?"
"Where shall I put this apple-peel?"
"Où est, M'sieu, la grande Larousse?"
"Do you say 'two-spot' or 'the deuce'?"
"Say, Mister, where's the telephone?"
"Now, which is right, to 'lend,' or 'loan'?"
"How do you use this catalogue?"
"Oh, hear that noise! Is that my dog?"
"Have you a book called 'Shapes of Fear'?"
"You mind if I leave Baby here?"

GIFTS.

The employees of the Library have recently been asked to give money for reconstruction in three war-ridden countries: for the relief fund for Russian librarians, \$42.00 was given; for the rebuilding of the library of the University of Louvain, \$32.25 has been thus far received; and \$61.10 was contributed for Devastated France, through the candidacy of Miss Agnes E. Daly in the Goodwill Contest.

Miss Daly's Library friends congratulate her on the splendid vote which she received, and wish her a happy journey to France.

The small returns for Louvain, in comparison with the amount given for Miss Daly, would indicate that we of the Boston Public Library are more interested in persons than in causes. A recent report to the Massachusetts Library Club stated that at a time when the Boston Public Library had contributed only \$2.30, sent in by two branches, to the rebuilding fund for Louvain, 90 other libraries, most of them small, had given \$1002.73. It is pleasant to know that the appeal is meeting a generous response in some quarters.

COMING EVENTS.

The Institute for Librarians, held annually at Simmons College, under the auspices of the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners, is to have its meetings this year in March, instead of in July, as usual. The Institute will cover four days, March 20 to March 23, inclusive. The program has been arranged especially with a view to the needs of village libraries, but a number of the addresses will be of general interest to library workers. At the session of Thursday afternoon, March 22, which will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Boston Public Library, Mrs. Mary E. S. Root will speak on "Children's Books and their Illustrators," and Mr. John A. Lowe will give his "Impressions of a Village Library."

The long-heralded entertainment in honor of the Pension Committee is to take place on April 3. We recognize with appreciation the time and work the Committee gave to help establish the Act by which nearly all of us will benefit in one way or another. Many of us will be glad of an opportunity to express this appreciation in a definite way. Here will be our chance to do this, and to have at the same time an evening of pleasure and fun, provided by Library talent exclusively.

For some time members of the force have been saying, "Let's have a Library Minstrel Show," and now it is coming. If you are not one of the performers you will want to be present to see your friends in new and unusual character. Besides the Minstrel show there will be a play and good music.

The Archbishop John J. Williams Municipal Building, at the corner of West Brookline Street and Shawmut Avenue, facing Blackstone Square, the lower floor of which is occupied by the South End Branch Library, will be officially dedicated on Easter Sunday, April 1, at 3 p. m. The exercises will be held in the Henry L. Higginson Hall, on the floor above the library.

The next meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club will be held June 22-24, at the Cliff Hotel, North Scituate, where the Club had such a pleasant meeting last year. An interesting program is being arranged, and there is sure to be a large attendance. Those who expect to go to the meeting should make early application for rooms to the president of the Club, Mr. Harold T. Dougherty, Newton Free Library.

LIBRARY SALARIES.

In the *Bulletin* of the American Library Association for November, 1922, is published a comprehensive table of "Salary Statistics of Large Public Libraries," compiled by the A. L. A. Committee on Salaries. The table shows at a glance the salary conditions in thirty-three large American libraries, and makes it possible to form a rough idea of Boston's place in the list. It is, of course, difficult to compare salaries accurately, on account of the different systems of grading employees in the various libraries. It is suggested that such salary statistics be printed annually by the A. L. A., as an aid to standardization.

These figures for large libraries are supplemented in the *Bulletin* for January by a table of similar statistics for "medium-sized" public libraries —

those, that is, in cities whose population is between 50,000 and 140,000.

From a resolution recently adopted by the Association it is interesting to quote the following paragraphs:

"Higher minimum salaries should prevail in cities where the cost of living is above the average and in positions demanding considerable responsibility.

"Library salaries in every city and state should be adjusted to meet the competition of business, teaching, and other vocations, especially in that city and state, to the end that more well-qualified persons may be attracted to library work."

EXHIBITIONS.

HANDICRAFTS.

Did the people who made the furniture for the homes which we now call early American recognize their handwork as an art?

This question was prompted by the interesting exhibition of "Early American Arts" held in the Library last month, where there were interior views of Mount Vernon in its present state of perfected restoration, the Thomas Bailey Aldrich Memorial at Portsmouth, of "Bad Boy" fame, the Dorothy Quincy house, and the Lee Mansion at Marblehead; there were Salem doorways and knockers, Annapolis doorways, and details from the House of Seven Gables, to mention only a few of the examples chosen from the region extending from the James River to Gloucester. Carved bedposts, braided and hooked rugs, tufted coverlets and patchwork quilts, as popularized through the photographs of Mr. Wallace Nutting, with the aid of a cat or two in front of the fire and a very up-to-date looking girl in the costume of the period, have had their values as art emphasized in our day. Really, they were the practical, hum-drum product of an age when there was much time, especially in the evenings, and little outside distraction.

The braided rug, now an object of art displayed in the windows of a Boylston Street shop, made by trained

workers in Maine or New Hampshire, and fit to decorate your best hardwood floor, originated in an economical desire to make something useful out of the old pieces that were saved from the family wardrobe. Material from men's worn-out garments, from the woolen gowns of the women, with the addition sometimes of a bright piece of orange flannel to give it color (a purchase, and rightly thought an extravagant one), was cut into long strips and put away in bags. Then, when a winter evening came, with mother at home and the older children gone skating or driven to a dance miles away, the little ones from six to twelve years old, left behind, would ask, "Mother, can we braid?" and the bag of strips would come forth and the work of braiding begin. After a time, father, lighting a candle, would go down cellar, come back with a plate of apples, and, peeling and cutting one into quarters, would pass one on the point of his knife-blade to each child. Night after night this would go on, till finally mother, armed with a huge needle and a coarse, black thread, would sew the braided strips into rounds or ovals and the result was something thought suitable to put in the kitchen or in one of the bedrooms or possibly over a hole in the parlor carpet until a new one could be bought.

So it was with the patchwork quilt, made of pieces saved by a girl and her friends and put together at a quilting, the forerunner of our present-day "shower."

Thrift, it was called in those days. Now, time and enthusiastic antiquarians have made it an art.

THE HOUSE BEAUTIFUL.

The largest crowds of the year were attracted to the Library Exhibition Room by the brilliant show of original designs submitted in the cover competition organized by *The House Beautiful*, which was open from February 19 to 26. Of the fourteen hundred designs submitted in the contest, about two hundred and fifty were displayed in the Library. In addition to the awards of first and second prizes and honorable

mentions, made by the judges' committee, which consisted of members of the editorial staff of *The House Beautiful* and the Atlantic Monthly Company, with certain professional artists, the publishers solicited an expression of the public taste. Visitors to the exhibition were asked to vote according to their individual choice, and the results, as recorded in the accounts posted from day to day, showed the winner to be in the main the favorite.

The Exhibition Room never looked gayer; the designs ran riot through the whole gamut of color, and ranged from the most sedate pictures of prim doorways to distorted and fantastic visions of dream houses. The show was a revelation of the variety of ideas that two words may call up in the human mind.

SIR CHRISTOPHER WREN.

Less colorful, but architecturally very satisfying, were the photographs of the work of Sir Christopher Wren displayed in commemoration of the two hundredth anniversary of his death on February 25, 1723. This man *was* English architecture in his day, we are told. He made it, or rather, re-made it. St. Paul's Cathedral, the city churches of London, Greenwich Hospital, Hampton Court, the library of Trinity College, Cambridge, attest his genius. His career was long and full of lucky happenings. Born of a succession of English churchmen, brilliantly gifted himself, of rising fame in the mathematical sciences, he was wafted pleasantly by royal favor into the field of architecture while he was still young. He had no special preparation for the work other than that given him by his scientific researches. Chance again intervened. The Great Plague of 1665 sent him travelling in France and observing. The great fire of London, 1666, gave him a clear foundation on which to erect a cathedral and many lesser churches. London as it is known to-day is the result. And many of our best old buildings in New England show his influence.

How much of his work must needs be torn down, is the question which

arises now, with the changed demands of modern times.

The dates for the coming exhibitions are:

Mar. 12. Municipal improvement.

Mar. 19. American postage stamps, exhibited by the Boston Philatelic Society.

Mar. 26. Fountains of Italy.

April 2. Drawings by great masters.

C. H.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The Special Libraries Association of Boston held a largely attended meeting on February 26 in the rooms of the Boston School of Filing, Little Building. The speakers were Mrs. Eugenia Chick, director of the School, and Mr. Lawrence P. Morse, head of the Research Department, Babson Statistical Organization.

The Committee on Discarded Material reported that few of the libraries had as yet sent in lists of discards; it is hoped that other libraries will respond, and will consult the main list, kept in the Fine Arts Department of the Boston Public Library.

Miss Briggs, of the Catalogue Department of the Harvard University Library, asked that all cataloguers, or those interested in cataloguing, send their names to her, with a view to forming a local Catalogue Group for professional and social meetings.

Mrs. Chick told of the formation of the Library Bureau in 1876, and of its expansion in various directions, which has led it to take over the Chicago, Philadelphia and Boston Schools of Filing. She described the course of study offered at the School, and explained the alphabetic, numeric, automatic, geographic and subject methods of filing, not only the Library Bureau systems, but also those of the Amberg, Globe-Wernicke, Shaw-Walker and Yawman & Erbe companies.

Mr. Morse gave an interesting talk on "Business facts; their organization and interpretation," which should be of value to library trustees and invest-

ment committees. He brought with him the well-known "Babson Chart," which is compiled from various "business barometers," to show the trend of business throughout the country from month to month and year to year, and described the various services which the Babson Organization offers its subscribers, such as investment opportunities, local industry surveys, etc. The Research Department obtains material for these services from newspapers, periodicals, clipping bureaus, federal and state reports, etc., and from a limited number of field surveys by means of questionnaires. Periodicals are routed to the staff for marking, and then clipped, classified and filed under a classification scheme worked out at the Babson Organization.

A number of pamphlets on filing, and filing supplies, were distributed to the members, who were invited to inspect the numerous files used by the School in its work.

The next meeting of the Association will be held at the Massachusetts State Library, on Monday evening, March 26, and the subject discussed will be "Documents."

L. A. S.

' "AT IT AGAIN."

Another bowling party was held at the South Boston Yacht Club on the evening of March first. A Dutch supper was served to the twenty-six people who were present. At eight o'clock the fun began on the alleys and lasted until curfew at eleven. Miss May Burke carried off first honors for ladies' single string with a score of 95. Mr. William Clegg won the men's high single with a pinfall of 92. Everyone who was present is looking forward to another tournament after Easter.

STAFF CLUB.

"Books are delightful society."

Gladstone.

Staff Club members mentally voted both books and Mr. Minot "delightful society" on the occasion of the fifth

meeting of the Club, held on Tuesday evening, February 20, when Mr. John Clair Minot, literary editor of the *Boston Herald*, was the speaker.

Mr. Minot is not one of those who share the popular delusion that library attendants have nothing to do but leisurely read all the endless procession of "best sellers," which are constantly passing in review before them. Realizing that for most of us the review must of necessity be a hasty one, Mr. Minot came to present in tabloid form his impressions of the outstanding fiction of 1922 and the most distinctive books of the spring of 1923. He made pithy comments on the six most important English and the six most important American novels of the past year, and then passed to the new books of 1923. Some of those which he mentioned were: Mrs. Atherton's "Black Oxen," the novel that "shook New York to its foundation"; "Enchanted April," full of a delightful sparkle, by the author of "Elizabeth and her German garden"; and Zane Grey's "Wanderer of the Wasteland," a story of the desert which has been the best selling book in America since its publication in January.

The next meeting of the Staff Club will be held on Friday evening, March 23, at 7.45, in the Staff Lecture Room. The Committee on Current Events have procured as speaker the Reverend Henry Hallam Saunderson, D.D. Dr. Saunderson is a most earnest and convincing speaker, with an intimate knowledge of world events; his talk on "The Near East," which will include an outline of the origin of the Turkish people, and a discussion of the future of Russia, Germany, and the Balkan States, should be of general interest.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

Years, numbers and resources have given to the Benefit Association a position of leadership among the organizations of the Library. Founded to help its members meet the emergencies

of life, the Association has gained dignity and strength with the passing of the years. A society that is responsible for the welfare of all will grow and flourish only as it serves its ends faithfully. Careful consideration of these ends will, it is hoped, be evident in the revision of the constitution, of which a draft will soon be sent to every member of the Association.

The committee has striven to simplify the administration, to facilitate the post-card business, to offer plans for safeguarding and increasing the Association's funds, and to recommend salaries meeting in some degree the value of the financial and secretarial services rendered. It has endeavored to adjust benefits more closely to the proportion of dues paid; to define accurately the duties of officers; to increase the proportion of women on the Board of Directors (the membership of the Association now includes 97 men and 197 women); to bring the officers into closer relation with the members; to attract new members as soon as they enter the service; and, finally, to strengthen that important group, the Relief Committee, so as not only to afford financial help to members who are sick, but to give also the encouragement that is such a powerful aid in the recovery of health.

No officers and no committees can manage any association alone. Each member will gain from the Association as much as he puts in; it is *our* Association, and if we all work for it, it will continue to be successful.

L. E. T.

RETURNS FROM THE PARTY.

The returns from the Benefit Association party of February 9 are in at last, and amount to \$144.62. In addition to money paid for tickets, this total includes two gifts from members of the Board of Trustees, one of fifty dollars from Mr. Louis E. Kirstein, and one of ten dollars from Mgr. Arthur T. Connolly, Vice-President of the Board. The Association is very grateful to these gentlemen for their generosity, which has so swelled the receipts of the evening.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Benefit Association will be held on Tuesday, April 3, at 11 a. m., in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library, for the election of officers and any other business that may properly come before the meeting. The nominations were printed in the January number of *LIBRARY LIFE*.

THE SICK LIST.

The Relief Committee reports that four more members are absent on account of illness, but that all are improving; they are Misses Mary McCready and Mary Santino, of the Issue Department; Miss Palmira Piciulo, of the Registration Department; and Mr. George C. Johnson, of the Fine Arts Department.

COLLECTION OF BY-LAWS.

The by-laws of local benefit societies, and of those connected with other libraries, which have been collected and compared by the Committee on Revision of the Constitution, have been given to the Library, and are now reserved for the use of members of the Benefit Association at the Bates Hall Centre Desk in the Central Library. The list may not be without a certain interest:

American Express Employees' Aid Society, 1913.
 Boston and Providence Relief Assn., 1896.
 Boston Firemen's Mutual Relief Assn., 1920.
 Boston Letter Carriers' Ben. Assn., 1912.
 Boston Police Relief Assn., 1915.
 Boston P. O. Clerks' Mutual Benefit Assn., 1922.
 Boston Teachers' Retirement Fund Assn.
 Filene Coöperative Assn. Ben. Society.
 Harvard Coöperative Society, 1919.
 Library of Congress Beneficiary Assn., 1919.
 Mass. Permanent Firemen's Benefit Assn., 1918.
 N. E. Tel. & Tel. Co., Plan for employees' pensions, 1920.
 N. Y., N. H. & H. R. R. Beneficial Assn., 1922.
 Patrolmen's Benevolent Assn., N. Y., 1915.
 Public Library Employees' Pension Fund, Chicago, 1915.
 S. S. Pierce Co.'s Emp. Ben. Assn., 1922.
 University Press Relief Assn., Inc., 1920.
 Winslow Bros. & Smith Co. Mutual Benefit Association, Pittsfield.
 Women's Educational and Industrial Union, Employees' Association, 1920.
 Workmen's Sick and Death Benefit Fund of the United States, 1921.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume II, No. 7

April 15, 1923

CONTENTS.

WE GET TOGETHER	77	AN OATH OF LIBRARIANSHIP	85
AT HOME—NINE TO NINE	79	A REVISED CONSTITUTION	85
WITH THE CURRENT MAGAZINES	80	NEWS NOTES	87
EXHIBITIONS	81	INSTITUTE FOR LIBRARIANS	89
THE EXTENSION SERVICE	82	PUBLICATIONS	90
GEORGE ZITTEL	83	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON	90
EDITORIALS	84	STAFF CLUB	91
BRANCH LIBRARIES AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS	85	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	92

WE GET TOGETHER.

Half the fun of getting together is getting ready for it. Ask the Committee of Arrangements for the United Library, Gettogether, All-in-One Jubilation held in honor of the Pension Committee in our Lecture Hall on Tuesday evening, April 3.

It sounded mild when the party was first discussed. We wanted a few songs, a little play, — one that we had done before at that, — a minstrel show, ice cream and cake, something simple and informal—nothing more. Nothing more! Oh dear, no! All we wanted was to get together. But there was that in the process that has made the Committee feel like the youth who said that he went into the shower-bath a boy and came out a man. We of the Committee, whatever we were before, are now as men in experience. We have staged a play where a play had never been. We have produced a minstrel show with a singing, costumed chorus dancing in the spot-light, we have offered hospitality to our fellow-workers and their friends, all under our own Library roof. We have got together.

Take the scenery. That was one thing that had to be got ready. Where

was it to come from? At first blush, it would seem as if every other one of us in the Library was cousin to David Belasco. But, as it finally worked out, Mr. Chase was the man who secured us the stage-setting. On a blowy spring morning, he and another member of the Committee trotted gaily across to the Copley Theatre, our neighbor, and into Mr. Jewett's presence. We liked that. We liked being rung up on the telephone and hearing that Mr. Jewett would see us in his office. It made a bright spot in our library day. "She," said Mr. Chase, indicating his companion, "is the coach." "And what do you do?" said Mr. Jewett in a great rolling voice. "I — at my age — for the first time in my life — am taking part in a play," said Mr. Chase, and we all laughed gleefully and sat down to talk of figures and dimensions. We could have anything in the theatre, it appeared, thanks to Mr. Jewett's generosity, if we would simply go after it (the scenery storehouse was at South Boston) and return it after it was used. Hurrah!

REHEARSING.

Days of rehearsing ensued. In the Staff Lecture Room a chorus was gently chugging about a bull-frog; the chink of tamborines slid past you

in the hall; crimson-faced damsels climbed breathlessly down from the Lecture-Hall stage after a whole noon hour's arduous practice at their "steps" on a chalk-marked floor. And the orchestra and the end men and the people in the play were all getting in their work somewhere most of the time.

Of course we fought. "That settles it for me; I'm done with this show," you could hear almost any day when a ruffled individual felt that something particularly unpleasant had been gratuitously dealt out to him. What we said about each other, and to each other; even worse, what we thought of each other and didn't say, must go unrecorded here. But it made getting ready a lively business.

Regulations in regard to ice cream were brought up. How much an average man would eat; how to keep him from eating twice as much as his share, while some less expert individual went without, were new and knotty problems to be wrestled with.

ANXIETIES.

The possibility of going bankrupt stared the pessimistic members in the face. One department had taken only a pitiful few tickets. Ough! What was the matter? Weren't we working our heads off trying to get up a show — trying to get together? We wondered, if we went into debt, whether the Committee would have to make up the deficit. Anxious thoughts these!

On the day before the party the scenery arrived downstairs in our front hall. As it lay on the floor inside the vestibule, it seemed very large. The curtain pole, like the mast of a great ship, stretched almost from door to stairway. The problem was how to hoist it to the Lecture Hall. We stood about it and looked thoughtfully at one another. The chief engineer spoke of a derrick. The feminine portion of the committee withdrew, overwhelmed with a feeling of uselessness. Then the get-together spirit began to operate. It lifted scenery and curtain triumphantly from the vestibule floor and bore them on the shoulders of the men of the Library to the Lecture Hall

stage. Clouds of dust, thick and white, rolled heavenward, but through it all the scenery still came on. And why not? Look who was there! Mr. Blaisdell, Mr. Chase, with Mr. Harry Matthews, Mr. Maiers, William Graham, Jimmie Kelly and John Lawrence, and goodness knows how many more whose names are left out, but who deserve to be entered in the Book of Gold for the work they did that day.

Before long we were all set. Only a few details, remembered at the eleventh hour, threatened to paralyze the Committee mentally. Such as: "Have you seen Mr. Maiers?" "No, I haven't. Why?" "He promised to have two dozen safety-pins here by half-past one. Now, where is he?" Where? Heaven knows! Oh, there he is! "Mr. Maiers, about those safety-pins . . ." Mr. Maiers turns white, seizes his hat, and dashes from the room. Again, one chances across a weary brother who says, "If I ever get into a thing like this again, I'll . . ." The rest is lost. This time it is the spot-light. The wretched thing is in South Boston and it weighs ten pounds. Who would believe that so many things theatrical come from South Boston? Scenery and curtain and even the spot-light! We must send for it by a special automobile.

THE ASSEMBLY.

And now the lights are up, the doors are opened, people are coming. See them! Mr. Fleischner is there, back to be one of us again since his departure last Saturday under the Retirement System, and Mr. Murdoch, ushering as vigorously as if a pension had never been thought of. And there comes Mr. Locke! The Pension Committee are in front, all together in a row, and Mr. Reagan from City Hall is with them. And Miss Nichols is there, too, and Mr. Wadlin with Mrs. Wadlin! This is a Library party!

Casts and choruses are not developed over night. Mr. Appel's work at Christmas and again in April has shown how much can be done musically in the Library. In the field of the drama, we have worked now for two years and

have brought out in that time thirty people. And what is the result? We have a capable, charming leading woman in Miss Jordan. Mr. Chase, despite his claim of inexperience, is an excellent comedy man. We have a number of attractive ingénues, among them the conspicuously good Miss Bessie Doherty; we have young men, (we used to call them boys when they worked with us last year), and finally, several individuals who have stood up to the rack nobly in the less attractive jobs that go with staging a play. Amateurs who work as did the members of the cast of "Where Shall We Go?" on Tuesday night are a credit to any institution.

MINSTREL SHOW.

The minstrel show was gorgeous. Row upon row of orange-clad beauties, swept by pink and violet changing lights, and thumping tamborines, rocked and swayed to the music of "Bandanna Days." Mr. Michael Conroy and Mr. Jimmie Kelley, among the end men, with faces blacked and in striped coats, were as witty as they are every day in the Library. In the full glare of the spot-light, the centre of the picture, was Mr. Jack O'Brien, blonde, portly, with a vast expanse of white shirt-front, mighty of figure and rich of voice, saying in deep reverberating tones, "Ladies and gentlemen, be seated!" Way up at the back of the hall someone held up a baby on her shoulder and at her side a little child, just tall enough to look over the seats, peered through the darkness at "daddy" on the stage. The little O'Briens had come to see father act.

Nearly all of the sixteen numbers were encored abundantly. To single out any for mention is perhaps a difficult task, but we cannot refrain from saying that Edith von Schoppe in a pink dress singing "Crimoline Days" was charming. Personally, we always like to see Josie O'Sullivan dance an Irish jig. Mr. Hofman, the high-hatted Professor of Pensionitis, with his original poem, seemed to know how to get right at his audience in a way that they liked, and the whole company had a

spirit that there was no resisting. By ten o'clock, the regular Library closing hour, there was scarcely standing-room. The entertainment, which concluded with the presentation of ten-dollar gold pieces to each of the Pension Committee and a bouquet of roses to Miss Macurdy, very prettily offered by Mary McDonough, lasted till a little after eleven o'clock. Then came refreshments in the Children's Room till midnight.

Later statistics reveal that the money came in plentifully. At least two people are known to have kissed (this is getting together raised to the *n*th power), and everybody agrees that our Library Party was a "good time enjoyed by all." C. H.

AT HOME — NINE TO NINE.

THE DEDICATION.

At two o'clock on Sunday, April 8, 1923, the South End Branch, which had been open since noon, had been visited by one hundred and fifty-seven persons, as actually counted by the hard-pressed extra assistant. At two-fifty, she gave it up. No one person could keep track of the hordes that thronged in then, especially as that one person had to charge out books, compute fines, and answer the telephone, in addition to collecting these vital statistics. At two-thirty there was a lull, as the public trooped upstairs to Henry L. Higginson Hall and the dedication exercises of the Archbishop John J. Williams Municipal Building, which houses the South End Branch. There was excellent music by the Boston Public School Symphony Orchestra, composed of high school students trained by Professor John A. O'Shea. Then came an address by Hon. Patrick J. Melody, Master of Ceremonies, and an impressive invocation by Rev. William B. Finigan. Solos followed, by Mr. John J. Shaughnessy, Mrs. Helen Countie Galvin and Miss Elizabeth Monroe, with Miss Margie Mack at the piano.

The next event was the presentation of the key by the architect, Mr. J. H.

Schweinfurth, and a stirring address on Americanization by Hon. James M. Curley, Mayor of Boston. After the singing of the Star Spangled Banner those present were invited to inspect the entire building, which is the finest structure of its type thus far erected by the City. The majority preferred to see the library, drawn, no doubt, by the charm of the hostess and librarian, Miss Margaret Sheridan. (A short time ago, in these pages, Miss Sheridan's eyes were described as blue. They are brown. We admit the error, with the single excuse that they were dancing so at the time, they dazzled us.) On this occasion, the brown-eyed and hospitable Miss Sheridan and her assistants welcomed their friends to the official housewarming of the South End Branch, which had been informally open and busily functioning for more than two months. On the librarian's desk was a pot of yellow jonquils. There were other spring flowers on book-cases and tables about the library, donated by a South End florist, "one of the neighbors."

THE BRANCH'S NEW QUARTERS.

The new branch is all on one floor, the various departments separated by glass screens. The effect is spacious and restful.

The children's room was specially popular with the public, who roamed through it, exclaiming over the tiny furniture, the low shelves, the attractive array of books. The small readers regarded the visitors with interest, all but one little colored boy, who did not lift his eyes from the pages of *St. Nicholas*.

In the adult section of the library, the tables were crowded with readers. These were not merely tired old men dozing over a newspaper, but students, young women, a group of men looking over magazines about radio.

Reference books were strewn over the tables, as well as much other non-fiction. One man was reading the *Century*, another the *Illustrated London News*; while a moving-picture magazine, with the usual sugary girl on the cover, stood neglected in the rack.

Several high-school students were at work in the reference alcove. On one side of the wall were shelves of attractive new books. One by one, those invited to inspect the library were drawn to these shelves, and from visitors became readers. The South End Branch was officially open to the public.

M. E. P.

WITH THE CURRENT MAGAZINES.

Varied is the fare offered in the current issues of the periodicals devoted to libraries and their affairs. The reader is urged to examine them for himself, as it is impossible to do more than indicate the chief features in this summary.

Let us open *Public Libraries* for March. The leading article, entitled "Relations of Actual Work to the Library School," treats very fully of the work of the training classes at Denver, Colo., which have a record of ten years' growth. It is especially interesting to read this article at the present time, when we are trying out various forms of library class-work here in Boston.

The bookbinder of the Cleveland Library has an article on the preparation of periodicals for the bindery, with many useful and practical hints and suggestions for better co-operation between bindery and library.

The great gift to the Reference Department of the New York Public Library is described in some detail. Great as the six million seems, this is only a beginning. It is estimated that not less than \$500,000 a year increase in endowment will be required to meet the growing needs of the institution.

Mr. Bostwick has an amusing bit on "Six kinds of assistants," a new style of library grading.

On page 163 of this number appears a first article (to be continued) on "Library Material for Debating in High Schools," which contains an excellent list of books on debate, briefs, etc. It also has a list of the most useful periodicals for debaters.

Turning to the *Library Journal*, in the

March 1st issue the gifts to American libraries in 1922 are listed, from the modest \$500 bequest for Boston to New York's long list, including another \$300,000 for the Reference Department.

The March 15th number opens with an account of "Railroad Libraries," by Richard H. Johnston, Librarian of the Bureau of Railway Economics, the largest of railway libraries, which includes 100,000 books and pamphlets. On page 265 there is an article of considerable interest on "Libraries in Mexico," a new development in that country.

On page 269 there appears a list of the new business reference books of 1922, an exceptionally useful and informing compilation.

The Poetry Society of America submits in this number a selected list of Books by American Poets, 1922, which should prove of service in filling up a poetry section. We regret to note a serious blunder in this list: D. H. Lawrence happens to be an Englishman, the son of a coal miner, born on the border between Nottinghamshire and Derbyshire.

Miss Krum, the librarian in charge, writers an interesting account of the Burton Historical Collection of the Detroit Public Library.

Those of us who contributed our mite toward the rebuilding of the Lounsbury Library will find a summary of its special collections on page 279, describing many notable purchases already made for the new building.

This issue of the *Library Journal* contains another reading list of more than ordinary interest, on the subject of Newspaper Reference Libraries, commonly known as "morgues." The articles listed should be suggestive to all librarians who are organizing information files for quick reference.

EXHIBITIONS.

POSTAGE STAMPS.

"Ever collect?" This inquiry was addressed to hundreds of visitors to the Library's Exhibition Room during the week of March 19, when postage

stamps held sway in the cases and on the walls. It is safe to say that no exhibition ever held in the Library has made a stronger appeal to a greater variety of persons of all ages; perhaps none has ever been visited by so many persons within a single week.

The Boston Philatelic Society had made great preparations for the show. The exhibits, more than thirty in number, had been selected with much care, so as to give a comprehensive notion of the field and an idea of its numerous avenues of approach. An elaborate and attractive catalogue had been compiled, with a most seductive cover, made up of a hodge-podge of stamps, and inside a mass of information, so arranged as to give to every reader a workable introduction to the subject. An illustrated lecture on "Stamp-collecting as a hobby" was given in the Lecture Hall of the Library on Monday evening, the opening day of the show. And every day a number of enthusiastic members of the Society were in attendance, to explain the treasures exhibited, and to do all in their power to increase the visitors' intelligent interest in the subject.

EVERYONE A STAMP-COLLECTOR.

For the exhibition was undisguised propaganda. It was planned and carried out for the purpose of turning the population of Boston into a vast aggregation of stamp-collectors. And certainly no means was ever better adapted to its end. The boy who was just beginning was told where he could get for the least money the biggest addition to his store. The old collector, whose treasures had lain neglected or forgotten for a quarter-century, was taken in hand, and shown how interesting the quest for stamps might be to a mature man who would specialize in some narrow field. The child who had inherited an old stamp-book, of which he little knew the value, was invited to bring in his stamps and show them to one of the kindly men in attendance; and as the experienced philatelist looked over the confused treasures, two generations old, he urged the boy not to exchange those stamps with any of his friends: "Study them, and see what

the good ones are; and hold on to them."

One could hardly go through the room without being button-holed — it was like the Salem Street of tradition. "Have you seen these Confederates? Wonderful lot, practically complete." "Don't waste time over the flat cases; they are filled with ordinary stuff, such as you can get from any dealer; come and look at the Western Australia collection, if you want to have your mouth water. You never saw a lot like that anywhere." "Look at those pairs of early United States; those are worth going far to see." "How long ago did you stop collecting? Your stamps must be worth something by this time; but don't sell them — you'll regret it. I used to have a general collection, but I am having a real time now, completing my set of Ceylon." "Yes, Mexico was worth collecting, thirty years ago; it's all mixed up now, with the changes of government, and you can't tell what you are getting; I left Mexico long ago, and took up Russia, which is most engrossing these days."

An exhibit pointed the speaker's words — a package completely covered with stamps, running into fabulous sums, which had lately come from Petrograd. The show was full of stimulus, wherever one turned — history, geography, art, industry, all jostled together in the cases. And it was full of beauty too; seldom has the room been more gay, seldom has it spoken of greater devotion to an intellectual hobby. The exhibition was a memorable one, and may well be a starting-point to which hundreds of future stamp collections will date back their origin.

F. H. C.

OTHER EXHIBITIONS.

For the remainder of March, and for the month of April, the following exhibitions have been scheduled:

March 26. Photographs of Italian fountains.

April 2. Reproductions of drawings by the Old Masters (Italian, German, Flemish, Dutch, French, English).

April 7. Poster Competition of the

Massachusetts Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals.

April 16. Early and rare photographs of Baseball Celebrities, from the collection of Mr. Michael J. McGreevy.

April 23. Original oil paintings by N. C. Wyeth.

April 30. Shakespeare's England.

THE EXTENSION SERVICE.

The Extension Service of Greater Boston is sending to Hot Springs, for exhibition at the Conference of the American Library Association, a collection of twenty-one sheets illustrating its various activities, including the Calendar of Coming Free Events, which is steadily proving its usefulness. The introductory sheets, explaining the purposes and methods of the Committee, are believed to be of sufficient interest for reproduction here.

I

EXTENSION SERVICE.

Extension service is an idea, which is in process of experimental development by the Extension Service Committee of Greater Boston, with headquarters at the Boston Public Library. The immediate purpose in view is the indefinite extension of the powers of a public library to serve its community, through the activities of a volunteer committee working in close coöperation with the library.

The Extension Service Committee of Greater Boston was organized January 11, 1921, and for more than two years it has held weekly meetings on Tuesdays at 3 p.m. at the Boston Public Library, usually in the Librarian's Office. A special topic is assigned for each meeting, and outsiders who are likely to be interested in any topic are invited to the meeting at which it is considered. This procedure has the result of linking up with the Public Library persons who are expert in various fields, and frequently of enlisting them as sponsors.

The Extension Service Committee works in close harmony with the Information Office of the Boston Public Library, and much of the material collected by it is housed in that office. It maintains a bulletin board in the lower hall of the Library for its Calendar of Free Coming Events. Its sponsors are listed in the card catalogue of the Library, under their subjects. It conducted an information booth at the Swampscott Conference of the American Library Association, and a similar information service in connection with the convention in Boston last summer of the National Education Association.

In addition to cultivating sources of information, the Extension Service Committee is ready to coöperate in other community interests—in short “to help in finding ways and means of doing things for which there is no other immediate or adequate agency.”

The officers of the Committee are:

Chairman: James A. Moyer, Director University Extension, Department of Education, State House, Boston.

Vice-Chairman: George W. Lee, Librarian, Stone & Webster, Inc., 147 Milk St., Boston.

Secretary: Laura R. Gibbs, Tel-U-Where Company of America, 142 Berkeley St., Boston.

Treasurer: Frank H. Chase, Reference Librarian, Boston Public Library.

Chairman Programme Committee: Charles F. D. Belden, Librarian, Boston Public Library.

II

SPONSORS FOR KNOWLEDGE.

WORKING RULES, BASED ON THE PROCEDURE OF THE
EXTENSION SERVICE COMMITTEE OF
GREATER BOSTON.

SPONSORS: A sponsor is a volunteer (either an individual or an institution) who undertakes (a) to supply a public library with information in a chosen field, and particularly to help in answering elusive questions referred to him by the library; or (b) to carry on some other form of public service (e.g., the maintenance of a calendar of free coming events) as library extension work.

QUALIFICATIONS: A sponsor should possess either expert knowledge of his field or special interest in it, and should always have ready access to sources of information and sufficient leisure to develop them.

OBLIGATIONS AND DUTIES: A sponsor is expected to prepare a sheet or sheets giving a brief analysis of his subject and references to the leading sources of information; to keep his knowledge of these sources up to date; and to hold himself ready to answer as promptly as possible any pertinent questions referred to him. If the sponsorship is of the second, or active type, the sponsor will steadily maintain his extension activity.

METHODS: The sheets submitted by the sponsors are posted successively in the library, and are then filed in a loose-leaf binder kept in the reference department. The existence of a sponsorship for any subject is indicated by cards of a special color in the card catalogue of the library.

MAKE-UP OF LOCAL COMMITTEE: The Extension Service Committee of Greater Boston, which promotes the sponsorships centering in the Boston Public Library, is a volunteer organization, whose scope is now being extended through the appointment to it of ex-officio representatives of communities, libraries, and other organizations for public and social service in Greater Boston. Member organizations pay an annual fee of \$1 to cover postage and other expenses.

GEORGE ZITTEL.

For many years past, at 1.30 every afternoon, there entered the Library through the Blagden Street door a man with side whiskers and heavily stooped shoulders, whom you would judge to be about seventy years old; so quiet and unassuming was he that few may have noticed his coming and going. This man was Mr. Zittel, known to his friends and acquaintances as “George.”

Mr. Zittel was born in Boston in October, 1848, in a house on Washington Street, where now stands the R. H. White department store. In the year 1860 the family removed to Roxbury, where George attended the old Dearborn School, and afterwards studied steam engineering. At the age of twenty he was employed by the Codman Estate as engineer, and remained with them until 1884, when he entered the United States Customs Service. In 1891, when the engines were first installed in the Copley Square building, he entered the service of the Library, and remained at his post, a steady and faithful workman, until the beginning of his last illness, in October, 1922; his death occurred on March 13, 1923.

Mr. Zittel was a charter member of the Employees' Benefit Association. His application for a pension, to be paid to his son, had been granted by the Boston Retirement Board, to begin on March 15; his death two days before this date unfortunately prevented the consummation of the plan. As more than one has remarked, “those who knew Zittel will always remember him as ‘Honest George’.” P. A. K.

A new factor was projected into library reference work when ten radio stations recently sent broadcast a distress call for the author and origin of “The salute to the flag,” which was wanted by an individual who probably had no idea what he was starting. During the week following the broadcasting, some sixty “fans” brought the question to the Central Library. Many thanks, radio! We know now.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. II, No. 7.

April 15, 1923

OUR RETIRED LIST.

Emeritus — the word, attached to a title, always carries distinction. A professor or pastor *emeritus* is one whose work and personality have so endeared him to the institution which he has served that it is unwilling to sever the tie which has bound him to it. He has earned a permanent place, and is entitled to its honors and its rewards.

The most famous names in the roll of our army and navy are found on the retired list — men who have served their time with credit, and whom the country is proud to retain upon its army and navy register. These men are no longer on the fighting line, but they are none the less soldiers of the nation. In many a case — that of Admiral Mahan is a conspicuous example — a man has done his most significant work after retirement from active service. President Eliot, who remained at his post until the ripe age of 75, is still a force in the life and thought of college and nation. Leonard Wood is on the retired list of the army, but he was never more active, never more useful, than to-day.

Retirement is a state of mind. Beginning May first, the Library will have a retired list, which will grow with the years. We feel certain that, as our older associates cease active service, their interest in the Library will not flag, and that their minds and hearts will never "retire." We who remain on the job shall gain distinction from the records of our friends on the retired list. We shall always regard them with special pride and affection.

LIBRARY LIFE offers its congratulations to the Boston Athenaeum, and to Mr. Charles K. Bolton, its librarian, on the recent completion of his first twenty-five years in the position which he fills with such distinction. The Athenaeum has made steady progress during his term as librarian. He found it in cramped quarters, which have been splendidly expanded under his leadership. May he continue for many years to serve the institution which was Boston's earliest great library.

THE MERCHANT MARINE.

All the world loves a sailor. The nature of his life, with its dangers, its uncertainties, its contrasts, makes an immediate appeal to the imagination. His character, open-hearted, impulsive, good-natured, gives him popularity wherever he goes.

For the past two weeks, the sailor of the Merchant Marine has been kept before our minds by means of two packing-cases in the entrance hall of the Library, marked "Books for Seamen." Into these boxes books have been poured until they have overflowed again and again. For a number of days there were displayed, in showcases near the boxes, designs for a bookplate, to be placed in the books collected for the sailors in Massachusetts. The "drive" is a success.

Thousands of good books — standard fiction, technical works, books of travel — "driven" out to sea by the people of Boston! It is no accident that the dolphin appears on the seal of the Library, and figures so largely in the decoration of the building; the Library and the sea are friends and neighbors. And although the Library cannot send its own books to sea, it is happy to be the collecting station, where these sea-going books are gathered in.

And the sailors fairly "eat 'em up." The books on a long voyage are often literally read to pieces by the men who have so few resources for amusement in their narrow quarters. No sooner does a ship arrive in port than word is

telephoned to the headquarters of the Merchant Marine Library Association: "We are ready for a new library, in exchange for the one you placed on board four months ago. Please send us a big lot this time. We are going for nine months."

We often use the expression "alone on a desert island," to denote the acme of remoteness. It is quite as bad to be alone on an ocean ship, without books. A proper regard for citizenship demands that no vessel should leave port without good reading-matter to last until its return.

It is a pleasure to add the name of Miss Mary McCready to the list of those who received more than 85 per cent on the examination at the close of the first course in Reference Work; it was omitted from the list printed last month, through a regretted oversight.

BRANCH LIBRARIES AND SCHOOL BUILDINGS.

A larger use of school buildings for various public purposes has been widely advocated, and has met with the hearty approval of the Mayor of Boston. A closer coöperation between the libraries and the schools is also being generally urged, whether in the form of special school libraries, as a part of a city's library system, or of ordinary branch libraries, located in school buildings.

An important step in the establishment of closer relations between library and school has just been taken in the form of a conference between members of the Boston School Committee and the Trustees of the Library, looking to the provision of library quarters in new school buildings. As a result of this conference, the Trustees have voted: "That the Librarian be directed to inform the Mayor that the Trustees have met with the School Committee in accordance with his wishes, and have agreed upon a tentative plan to effect the full purpose he has in mind; the details to be worked out later in connection with the erection of any

new school buildings, with special reference to those districts where there are at present inadequate library facilities."

It is gratifying to record this action, which seems to promise further extensions of the Library. It is of interest to note in this connection that the Library now operates one or more branches in every ward of the city, with two exceptions, Ward 8, in the Back Bay, and Ward 3, which comprises the northern section of Charlestown.

AN OATH OF LIBRARIANSHIP.

I pledge myself never to let little rules obscure large service. I pledge myself always to abhor the one great sin, that of hiding the light and closing the mind. I promise to remember the punishment of Pharaoh at the Red Sea and of all others who have stopped their ears and shut their eyes to the daylight. I renounce Caliban. I will serve Ariel, encouraging in the best way I can all who would explore truth and beauty.—*Paul M. Paine.*

A REVISED CONSTITUTION.

The constitution of the Benefit Association, like those of other similar organizations, is a set of rules adopted by a number of persons acting together for the common welfare. Under these rules the Association has completed twenty years — twenty-one to be exact — of successful coöperation. Why, one may ask, make any change?

The answer is found in the almost unanimous desire of the members to make the Association more efficient and prosperous: to reduce, if possible, the number and length of the cases of sickness, to pay adequate benefits, to intensify the interest of the members in the Association, to increase the income and improve the administration. These requirements are vital, and to meet them the Committee proposes a number of constructive measures.

Health is of the first importance to every one. The health of its members

is the primary object for which the Association exists. We do not directly help our members to avoid illness, but our benefits aid the sick to recover health as quickly as possible. The perfect health of every member, every month in the year, would mean welfare for the member, efficiency for the Library, and prosperity for the Association. Every member, sick or well, should feel that he has behind him, at all times, the good will, the organization and the resources of the Association.

The direct contact of the sick member with the Association is in every instance through the Relief Committee. The work of this committee has suffered greatly of late through delay in getting notice of illness and difficulties in the way of reaching the sick person. For the sake of assuring immediate notice, it is proposed to authorize the Directors to appoint a member in each department and branch, whose duty it shall be to notify the Relief Committee at once of each case of illness; and, in order to facilitate visiting, to provide an address list arranged by districts, that the Relief Committee may appoint the member, living near by, who is in its opinion most suitable to visit the one who is sick. It is further proposed to empower the Directors to employ a physician for consultation or examination, in cases of serious or prolonged illness.

Sickness may involve loss of pay and entail unusual expense. The benefits ought, therefore, to be as liberal as possible. For the safety of the Association, the benefits have been left at the rates now in force, but the Directors are given full control of the Emergency Fund, in order to meet exceptional cases that may justify increased benefits. This fund is to consist of the net returns from entertainments, and no limit is placed on the amount to which it may be increased.

By these means — prompt notice in each case, special medical attention when necessary, and adequate benefits — it is hoped that long periods of illness may be diminished, and that the realization of the strength and backing

of the Association may even operate to reduce, somewhat, the number of cases of sickness.

The success of the Association depends upon the interest of the members. "Incentive is the soul's self." In every possible way, the revisions aim to make the life of the Association closely responsive to the enterprise of its members. The object is stated broadly as the welfare of the members; each department is to have its representative member, to be appointed by the Directors; members retiring under the Retirement Act are given an option, either of receiving one-half the dues paid, minus benefits, or of retaining the right to death benefit by paying dues; and, in general, the administration has been made more flexible, in order that the Association may avail itself of the abilities and voluntary services of its members, and may undertake any activities conducive to the objects for which it exists.

For any campaign, the sinews of war are necessary. The expenses of the past year have exceeded all records. The question of funds has given the Committee deep concern. Not parsimony, but intelligent economy, must be a prime motive of the immediate future. An initiation fee of one dollar is proposed; the period of eligibility for admission is limited, after 1924, to three years from the time of entering the service, in order to make a fairer distribution of the burden of dues, in proportion to benefits paid late in life; for the same reason the monthly dues of *new* members over 45 years of age are raised to fifty cents; members on leave of absence, except on account of illness, receive no sick benefits; and the duration of all sick benefits is limited to thirteen weeks. For canvassing the possible sources of additional income, a Ways and Means Committee is proposed.

The administration of the Association has always been successful, owing to the ability of our officers, but it is fair to give them the most favorable conditions for their work. The statement of the object of the Association has been enlarged to enable them to

act in other emergencies besides sickness and death. The duties of officers and committees have been more completely defined and somewhat extended; but the compensation of the officers, though increased, remains actually less, in proportion to their duties, than the amounts paid to officers of other benefit organizations in Boston. Finally, for the stability of the constitution, the quorum for acting on amendments has been made one-third of the membership.

With the exception of the changes and additions noted above, every section of the constitution, as now in force, is represented in the revision presented by the Committee.

In remembering the watchword of our times — service — it is important not to forget the mainspring of true service, which is mutual consideration. Checks and balances, rules and safeguards, can be devised by anyone, but the real strength and safety of the Association consist in the spirit of fairness and in the willing service and self-sacrifice of each member. Let us be an association of the members, by the members, for the members. With this principle, our society is sure to prosper.

L. E. T.

NEWS NOTES.

An unavoidable delay in going to press makes possible the inclusion of the first two items of news below.

At their meeting on Friday, April 13, the Trustees of the Library elected Monsignor Arthur T. Connolly President, and Mr. Louis E. Kirstein Vice-President, of the Board.

The Committee on Counties of the Massachusetts House of Representatives submitted a report, on April 16, that the provision for a minimum retiring allowance of \$480 per year, to employees of the City of fifteen years' standing, "ought to pass."

Employees of the Library may avoid possible disappointment if they bear in mind that, while the Retirement Board

is ready to answer all general inquiries in regard to the operation of the Boston Retirement Act, it does not give estimates of the probable allowance which any individual will receive on retirement. One who desires to know the amount which he or any other person will receive from the city, in the event of his retirement at any given age, must make his own computation on the basis of the tables furnished by the Board.

Mrs. Elizabeth Fairbrother Musgrave, who died on March 15, at the age of 83, was the first librarian of the Mount Bowdoin Reading Room, of which she was in charge from January 1, 1887, to June 29, 1910, when she resigned to be married to Mr. Bart Musgrave. Mrs. Musgrave was a native of Cape Breton, Nova Scotia, and was early married to Mr. Alvin Fairbrother; it was after his death that she came to Boston and entered the service of the Library.

On March 31, at their own request, the first members of the Library Staff were retired under the Boston Retirement Act; they were Miss Ellen A. Eaton, first assistant in the South Boston Branch, who entered the service in December, 1873; and Mr. John Murdoch, first assistant in the Catalogue Department, who had served the Library since November 16, 1896.

Mr. Lucien E. Taylor, of the editorial staff of *LIBRARY LIFE*, has been promoted to the position left vacant by Mr. Murdoch's retirement. On the occasion of his appointment, Mr. Taylor was pleasantly surprised to find on his desk a beautiful rose-bush, which had been placed there by his friends in the Catalogue and Shelf Departments.

In connection with the lecture given by His Honor Mayor Curley, on the subject, "Recent Municipal Activities in Boston," on the evening of March 15, a motion-picture machine was for the first time used in the Lecture Hall of the Library.

Mr. A. J. Philpott contributed to the *Sunday Globe* for March 25 a most interesting and appreciative account of the career of his life-long friend, Otto Fleischner, under the title, "Boston's Library to lose its 'Wheel Horse.'"

Miss Jordan addressed the meeting of the local group of libraries, held at the Milton Public Library Tuesday, April 10, on the subject of "Recent Children's Books."

Mr. Chase addressed the Old Colony Library Club at its meeting in Brockton, March 22, on "The librarian's leisure reading." On Sunday, March 25, Mr. Chase gave a gallery talk at the Museum of Fine Arts on "What the background contributes to the picture."

On the morning of March 26, thirty-two students of the New York Public Library School, with two of their instructors, Miss Tiemann and Miss Fenton, visited the Library, and, after an informal talk by Mr. Belden, were conducted over the building. This visit was a part of the annual tour of libraries, covering a week, which is a feature of the Library School course.

Miss Nellie M. Whipple, assistant librarian, with the training class of the Somerville Public Library, visited the Library on the morning of March 30.

On the afternoon of April 6, a group of about seventy boys from the Miles Standish Pre-Vocational School, Roxbury, visited the Library by appointment; they were accompanied by a number of teachers, including Mr. Francis V. Kenney, formerly on the staff of the Library's Bindery, who was warmly greeted by his old associates. The boys were first assembled in the Lecture Hall, where Mrs. Cronan briefly recounted the story of Sir Galahad, as a preparation for their enjoyment of the Abbey pictures. Before leaving the Library, they visited the

Printing and Binding Departments, where they showed a keen interest in the various mechanical processes, for which their school work had given them an excellent background.

In the February issue of *The Shield*, the journal of Theta Delta Chi, is printed a history of the fraternity during the past 25 years, compiled by Lucien E. Taylor.

Major-General Clarence R. Edwards was a visitor to the Library on the afternoon of March 24.

An excellent group-photograph of the cast of the recent Library Minstrel Show, taken on the night of the dress rehearsal, may be obtained from Mr. William Graham, at a price of One Dollar.

The final examination in Professor Robert E. Rogers's first course in American Literature was held on April 6. On the following Friday, April 13, Professor Rogers began his supplementary course of ten lectures, on American Literature since 1870.

Under the auspices of the Boston Conservation Bureau, a series of "Conservation Rallies," with moving pictures, music, and short addresses on civic topics is being held in the Library Lecture Hall. The first rally took place on Sunday afternoon, April 8.

The next meeting of the Library Spirit Club will be held in the Staff Lecture Room on Friday evening, April 20. The Committee in charge, consisting of Arthur Buckley, chairman, Edith Daly, Harriet Kelleher, and William Graham, have arranged a most interesting program for the evening.

The showcase of the Children's Room is at present occupied by a very attractive group of spring birds, lent by the Children's Museum.

INSTITUTE FOR LIBRARIANS.

The eighth Annual Institute for Librarians, held at Simmons College, March 20-23, under the auspices of the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners, differed in a number of respects from its seven predecessors. In the first place, it was held at a cooler season of the year — in March instead of July. In the second place, the main program was based upon work in the small town or village library, and the topics and speakers were chosen with reference to the needs of these libraries. And third, because it is so difficult to suit one's discourse to workers in both the very small and the very large libraries, whose problems are widely different, the topics dealing entirely with the village library were starred on the program, and only those engaged in this service were invited to attend these particular meetings. The plan proved very successful; the small-town librarians did not feel themselves overwhelmed by discussion of matters about which they knew nothing, and were consequently much readier to talk about their own problems.

Eighty-two libraries and sixty-three small towns of the state were represented at the Institute; the expenses of twenty-five librarians were paid by the State. Twenty of the visitors were housed in one of the dormitories of Simmons College (the Institute was held during vacation week), a delightful experience for them and a courtesy on the part of the College which was much appreciated by the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners, as well as by their guests. It is impossible to say too much of the cordial coöperation between the College and the Board.

THE PROGRAM.

Miss E. Louise Jones opened the meeting, on Tuesday morning, with a brief paper on "The ideal village library." Other subjects covered in the talks intended for the small-town librarians were "Ways of getting books before the people," by Miss Kathleen Jones, and "Work with the foreign-born," by Miss Edna Phillips, both

members of the Staff of the Division of Public Libraries; "Reference books," by Mrs. Bertha V. Hartzell, librarian, School of Social Work; "Problems of the small libraries" in Connecticut, by Mrs. Belle Holcomb Johnson, Library Inspector of the Connecticut Library Committee; "Book selection for small libraries" and "Book trails," by Miss Margaret Jackson, librarian in Hempstead, L. I., and lecturer in the Library School of the New York Public Library.

The interests of larger libraries were included in talks on Publicity and Advertising, by Miss Donnelly, Director of Simmons College School of Library Science, and Mr. Charles R. Green, librarian of the Jones Library, Amherst; "Contemporary Essays," by Mrs. R. G. Sherwood, librarian in Westport, Conn.; "Children's Books and Their Illustrators," by Mrs. Mary E. S. Root, formerly Children's Librarian in the Providence Public Library; and "Impressions of a Village Library," by Mr. John Adams Lowe, now Assistant Librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library. The last two papers were given in the Lecture Hall of the Boston Public Library, and were followed by tea and cakes in the Staff Room, where Mr. Belden, Mr. Fleischner, Miss Jordan, Miss Macurdy and others of the staff served as hosts.

AN AMUSING MISTAKE.

A somewhat amusing, though irritating feature of the Institute was the misquoting of a sentence from Miss E. Louise Jones's opening paper. The *Transcript* reporter, who was present, quoted her correctly as saying that although many persons advocated fewer village libraries and would substitute for them one large county or township library, this State thinks otherwise, believing the community is better served in Massachusetts by its individual library. The *Herald* reporter, who was not present, read the first part of the sentence in the *Transcript* and featured it in large headlines as "Fewer Libraries Advocated." Then, to complete the confusion, "Broadcasts" of the *Transcript* saw, not the correct report

in his own paper but the incorrect headlines of the *Herald*, and, moved to a defence of the small town library, devoted a third of a column to differing with what he supposed Miss Jones had said. Apologies from Mr. O'Brien of the *Herald* and a contribution from "Broadcasts" of the *Transcript* were speedily forthcoming, but, while they were comforting to the recipient, the error was not corrected and Miss Jones has had to answer many inquiries concerning her alleged heretical remark. She takes this opportunity to explain to the library public of the State the truth of the whole matter. E. K. J.

PUBLICATIONS.

A PRESIDENT'S LIBRARY.

A striking likeness of John Adams accompanies the account of his library, which forms the leading article in the *Quarterly Bulletin* for April. The original, from which the portrait is reproduced, hangs in Memorial Hall, Cambridge, and was painted by Copley in 1783, while Mr. Adams was acting, in company with Benjamin Franklin and John Jay, as member of a commission to negotiate a treaty of commerce with Great Britain. He was appointed first minister of the United States to England in 1785, and became our second President, succeeding Washington, in 1801.

Besides describing the vicissitudes of the Adams Library, now permanently housed in the Teachers' Reference Room, the article illustrates, from his choice of books, the interesting personality of the owner, and the ideas of the gentlemen of his time regarding the formation of a creditable library. The article closes with quotations from Adams's marginal comments on Mary Wollstonecraft's "French Revolution," and there is a facsimile of his general comment on the work, which faces the preface in his copy.

Since this is a Shakespeare year, brief notice is also given in the *Quarterly* of the publication of the First Folio, with a facsimile of its title-page from the copy in the Library, and the

promise of further recognition of its tercentenary in the autumn. It is further apposite to call attention to "British and American longer plays, 1900-1922," on pages 76-94 of the *Quarterly*, a list comprising 598 titles, compiled by Michael J. Conroy, of the Reference Department. This will be an invaluable aid to a large class of readers. The arrangement is by authors and titles.

TEN-BOOK LISTS.

Topics of current interest have been treated in the Ten-book Lists of the past month, as follows: Postage Stamps, prepared by Clifton A. Howes in connection with the first public exhibition of the Boston Philatelic Society, held March 19-24 in the Fine Arts Department; Lives of Living Men, by L. E. Taylor; Stories of the Operas, by Richard G. Appel; and Chemistry for the General Reader, prepared for the 84th meeting of the New England Association of Chemistry Teachers, by Lyman C. Newell, Ph.D., Professor of Chemistry in Boston University.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The Special Libraries Association of Boston met on Monday evening, March 26, in the beautiful reading room of the Massachusetts State Library, with more than one hundred members present. Considerable business came up, before the meeting was turned over to Mr. Redstone, State Librarian, and the speakers.

At the request of Mr. Belden of the Boston Public Library, a committee was appointed for the purpose of revising and bringing up to date the "Directory of Special Libraries of Boston," published last June. It was suggested that each library should clearly indicate whether or not it is willing to make its resources available to persons doing special work.

Miss Canavan was appointed a committee to organize an Engineering Group within the Association, which should hold occasional meetings for the

discussion of subjects and methods of special interest to its members.

A nominating committee, consisting of Mrs. Bertha Hartzell, chairman, Miss Abbie Glover and Mr. James F. Ballard, was appointed to present nominations for officers at the next meeting.

DOCUMENTS.

The subject of the evening was "Documents." The first speaker was Miss Jennie Foster of the Massachusetts State Library, who told of the variety and interesting character of Federal documents, and of the collections in the State Library. The documents, which are received daily, are kept in sets arranged by Departments, then by Bureaus, with a symbol to designate each. Library of Congress cards are used in cataloguing them, and they are fully analyzed.

Mr. George G. Walkins of the Massachusetts Historical Society discussed historical documents, their importance, and the need of accuracy in using them.

Mr. John Edmands, Chief of Archives, outlined briefly the history of the Massachusetts Archives Division, and gave a detailed list of the classes of state archives on file. He also described the use of the photostat in copying archives, touching on the different methods of making photostats and binding them.

Miss Edith Guerrier, of the Boston Public Library, talked on "Document Publicity." She spoke of the necessity of being thoroughly acquainted with documents and with the different government departments, in order to make proper use of them; and of the present arrangement and proposed reorganization of the various government departments and their bureaus. She also gave suggestions for advertising documents through "News Notes" in bulletins, brief abstracts, and scrap-books of newspaper clippings, with notes suggesting documents which contain further information on current topics.

Mr. Walter B. Briggs, Reference Librarian, Harvard College Library, emphasized the importance of using documents rather than secondary

sources. It is too often the tendency to use the most convenient source, when it is not always the most accurate one, though even documents are occasionally misleading. He suggested many valuable sources for reference to documents and document information.

Delicious refreshments were served by the State Library assistants after the meeting.
L. A. S.

The next meeting of the Association will be held on Monday evening, April 23, at the Library of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society, Horticultural Hall. Mr. William P. Rich, the librarian, will speak on the Society's library, and Mr. E. M. East will tell of the work of the Bussey Institution.

STAFF CLUB.

THE NEAR EAST.

At the Staff Club meeting on Friday evening, March 23, the Rev. Henry Hallam Saunderson, D.D., renewed acquaintance with many Club members when he repeated, upon request, a former talk upon conditions in the Near East. Dr. Saunderson's remarks were based upon an intimate knowledge of world affairs and a first-hand acquaintance, gained through travel, with the countries involved in the Near Eastern ferment. He dwelt particularly upon Russia's need for a direct route to the open sea, and the position of Constantinople as the strategic point in Near Eastern affairs. The various national ambitions which were disclosed by the World War, and the present trend of international events, have convinced Dr. Saunderson of the urgent necessity for a closer alliance among the English-speaking nations.

Miss Ida Gould was the gracious hostess of the evening, and was ably assisted by Miss Helen Ripley, Miss Katherine Rogan, Miss Elizabeth McShane and Mr. Francis Hannigan.

"MADAME BUTTERFLY."

The next meeting of the Staff Club will be held at the North End Branch on Monday evening, April 30, at 8 o'clock. All members of the club are

invited to witness a dramatic production of "Madame Butterfly," presented by members of the North End Library Clubs, under the direction of Miss Mary Curley, Librarian. An exceptional opportunity is here offered to visit the North End Branch and to observe, at the same time, an example of the manner in which Miss Curley manages to get successful teamwork in her Branch activities. Admission will be by ticket, to be obtained free, upon request, by Staff Club members, from Miss Alice M. Jordan, President.

A short business meeting will be held in the North End Library Club Room, previous to the evening's entertainment, for the purpose of electing a nominating committee of three, to prepare a list of officers to be voted on at the annual meeting. The following six persons have been selected by the Executive Committee, as candidates for this Nominating Committee:

Mr. F. C. Blaisdell, Issue Dept.
Mr. William Clegg, Periodical Dept.
Miss Bessie Doherty, Branch Dept.
Miss Alice B. Orcutt, Jamaica Plain Branch.
Miss Katherine Rogan, Charlestown Branch.
Miss Katrina Sather, Roxbury Crossing Reading Room.

In order to reach the North End Branch, go to Adams Square and take East Boston Ferry car (surface) to North Bennet Street, where the Library sign may be seen.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The President called the Annual Meeting to order on Tuesday, April 3, at 11.10 a.m., in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library. All the officers and over forty members were present. The usual minutes and reports were read and approved, and the following motions were passed: to transfer to the Trust Fund the donation of \$10.00 from the Rt. Rev. Mgr. Connolly; to transfer to the Emergency Fund the money raised at the last two entertainments, amounting to \$106.00; to continue sick benefits at the present rates until the adoption of the revised constitution. Upon motion, all the members present rose and remained stand-

ing for one minute as a mark of respect to the members who had died during the year. The Chair then appointed, as tellers for the election of officers, Mr. Conroy, Mr. Crowley, Mr. Swan, Miss Doonan and Miss Lissner. At two o'clock, after the recess for balloting, the chairman of the ballot committee reported the following members elected to office for the year 1923-1924:

President: Wm. C. Maiers, Jr., Ordering Dept.

Vice-President: Frank H. Chase, Bates Hall Reference Dept.

Secretary: George W. Gallagher, Bindery Dept.

Treasurer: Frank C. Blaisdell, Issue Dept.

Financial Secretary: Morris J. Rosenberg, Statistical Dept.

Member of Board of Directors: Miss Florence Cufflin, So. Boston Branch.

Auditing Committee: Michael M. McCarthy, Catalogue Dept.; Chester A. S. Fazakas, Branch Dept.; John J. O'Brien, Bindery Dept.

Mr. O'Brien, whose name did not appear on the printed ballot, was one of the three receiving the highest number of votes, and, by vote of the Association, was declared elected.

The Entertainment and Relief Committees of the preceding year were re-elected without opposition.

THE SICK LIST.

During the past month, a number of members of the Association have returned to their duties, after illnesses of longer or shorter duration; these include Mrs. Mary Mullen, matron of the Central Library; Miss Mary Doyle, Children's Room; Miss Florence Weinstein, Branch Department; Miss Mary McCready, Issue Department; and Mr. Patrick Kennedy and Mr. Walter Leighton, of the Engineer and Janitor Department. The following members are still on the sick list: Miss Marian W. Brackett and Miss Isabel E. Wetherald, Librarians respectively at Brighton and Mount Bowdoin; Miss Ellen A. Eaton, of the South Boston Branch; Miss Anna G. Lynch, of the Dorchester Branch; and Miss Catherine T. Donnelly, of the Bindery. The Association extends its cordial wishes for the speedy restoration to health of all these afflicted members.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume II, No. 8

May 15, 1923

CONTENTS.

NORTH END LIBRARY CLUBS	93	NEWS NOTES	102
OUR UNSEEN GUESTS APPEAR	95	TEN-BOOK LISTS	104
INTERVIEWING A NEW TRUSTEE	96	A PROGRAMME	104
THE CURRENT MAGAZINES	96	"HOME, SWEET HOME"	105
NUF CED!	97	SOUTH COVE MEETING	105
MR. MCGREEVY'S HEROES	98	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION	105
MISS NEWTON'S ANNIVERSARY	99	MADAME BUTTERFLY	106
EDITORIALS	100	IMPRESSIONS OF A VILLAGE LIBRARY	107
LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES	101	ORGANIZATIONS	108

NORTH END LIBRARY CLUBS.

Among the libraries composing our system, the North End Branch stands unique by reason of its successful club work with young people. The visit of many members of the Library staff to the North End to witness the clever work of the Club members in "Madame Butterfly" roused general interest, and many questions have been asked regarding the origin, object and development of club work in connection with the Branch.

This work originated in 1899, at "Station W," when Miss Edith Guerrerier was librarian. She noted, and was troubled by the fact, that the children took out books one day and returned them the next, having read only the first few pages. Among various efforts to interest them in finishing a book, she started a story-hour, with the double purpose of developing in the children a taste for good literature and of encouraging them to complete a story which they had begun.

SATURDAY EVENING GIRLS.

The first club group was composed of about thirty girls of the eighth grade, at that time the graduating grade, of the Hancock School. This group gathered on Saturday evenings and

was accordingly called the "Saturday Evening Girls."

As time went on, other groups were formed, and soon the whole of Saturday afternoon was given up to groups from the different school grades. Suddenly the oldest group became ambitious, organized itself, chose a president, secretary and treasurer, and a governing board of ten members, known as the House Committee. It was now launched as a real club!

Mrs. James J. Storrow, at this time chairman of the Library Committee for the North End Industrial School, became interested in these groups, and in the summer of 1907 she loaned for their use a camp house in Plymouth. One of the workers at the North Bennet Street School had charge of this house, and the members of the clubs, who went to camp for two weeks, paid board at the rate of \$3.00 a week. The following summer Mrs. Storrow bought a camp site at West Gloucester and built there a large and attractive camp house, which these groups used until 1920.

THE POTTERY.

As the years went by, it was noticed that certain members of the groups never went to camp. Investigation dis-

closed that this was because they could not afford to take the time, since in the places where they worked, vacation with pay was not given. Miss Guerrier then tried to find some means by which the girls could have a vacation at camp, and while there earn enough money to offset the loss of their two weeks' salary. Experiments led to the establishment of the Paul Revere Pottery, which, however, existed at the West Gloucester camp for only about two weeks, since it was found impracticable to conduct the work there. The idea was carried on, however, as it was thought that it might be worked out as a part-time industry by which some of the girls could earn sufficient money to enable them to continue in school. Many parents of the foreign girls in the North End were, at that time, disinclined to allow the girls to continue beyond the grammar school, and it was felt that if this industry could be developed so that the girls could earn three or four dollars a week, enough for car fare and part of their clothes, the parents would be willing to let them continue longer in school. The present successful Paul Revere Pottery in Brighton developed from this community industry.

By this time Mrs. Storrow had become so much interested in the clubs that she bought a house on Copp's Hill and fitted it up for clubs and for continuing the experiment of pottery making. Miss Guerrier lived in this house for seven years, while connected with the library at the North End. When the pottery was moved to Brighton the clubs were transferred to the basement at the North End Branch Library, where, through the generosity of Mrs. Storrow, attractive club rooms had been fitted up. The members themselves paid for a worker with the clubs and for all expenses connected with the work.

HALF-HOURS.

Each club had a weekly two-hour meeting, divided into four half-hour periods, as follows:

1. Business and ethics, clean hands, care of the books, honesty, etc.
2. Story-telling and good reading.

3. Chorus work, for the purpose of fostering a love for good music.
4. Folk-dancing and organized play. This served to create interest in refined methods of dancing.

It may be remarked in passing that in groups of this kind it was necessary, in order to hold the interest of the members, to include social features such as folk-dancing and chorus work. The result of this program was that girls who had remained in the clubs for a number of years would seldom be found reading trash or enjoying a poor play. For three years the club published a newspaper known as the *S. E. G. News*. This paper was printed at the Industrial School for Crippled Children, and paid for itself through advertisements and the subscription price, which was \$1.00 a year. Plays were produced, sometimes as many as twelve being given by the different clubs during the year, and an operetta or concert was usually given each season.

In 1919, upon Miss Guerrier's removal to the Central Library, these groups were necessarily dissolved. The original members of the old groups, however, still meet with her several times a year at her own home.

Miss Rebecca Heiman, now Mrs. Stanley Davis, sister of Miss Annie Heiman, of the North End Branch, was the club worker for six years. She was followed by Miss Rose Casassa, who has been club worker for the last year.

KENNEY JUNIORS.

When Miss Josephine E. Kenney was appointed librarian at the North End Branch, she quickly saw the value of club work in connection with the reading of her juvenile foreign element. She organized several new clubs, notably the Kenney Seniors and then the Kenney Juniors. The oath of the Kenney Juniors is both interesting and inspiring:

I, a member of the Kenney Juniors, take oath that I will stand by my worthy fellow members, stand by my honorable Club, and I will do my best to be an honest, upright and faithful member of the Kenney Juniors, and to do my duty to God and to my country.

Miss Kenney, by her real love for children and her sympathetic under-

standing, did much to re-establish and carry on the club work, which had proved to be so essential a part of library work in the North End.

CLUBS OF THE PRESENT.

North End has indeed been favored in her succession of librarians endowed with vision, personality and energy. When Miss Kenney was called to the New York Library, her place was taken by Miss Mary F. Curley. A notion of the diversity of her interests may be gained from the fact that she directs the progress of the following clubs: the City Historical Club, planned to create an interest in landmarks and persons and places historically prominent in Boston; Women of History Club, made up of working girls and girls still in high school, who study the lives of famous women; Kenney Juniors Literary Club, the members of which are interested in current events, economic and political, and devote much time to debate; the Little Folks Club, conducted by Miss Cecilia Nazaro, who reads fairy tales and plays games with the children on Wednesday afternoons; the Library Club Orchestra, a well-trained musical group, for whose ability we can vouch, having heard them play; and the L. Melano Rossi Club, composed of boys in high school or college who are interested in dramatics and debate.

Miss Guerrier, in her capacity of Supervisor of Branches, may be quoted directly as saying: "I cannot express the satisfaction I feel at the present development of the clubs, and my appreciation of the splendid work done by Miss Kenney and Miss Curley along the lines of club work." M. A. M.

OUR UNSEEN GUESTS APPEAR.

We hear a good deal nowadays about the Library being a hospitable place. We count the individuals who cross our threshold and partake of what we have to offer; we point to the number of those employed here. These numbers increase and we slap our chests with pride and think how many more and yet more each year have come

within our range, real people, actual, living human beings whom we can see. The Library is hospitable to its guests, the great public, and to the workers whom it shelters.

But beyond these two flesh-and-blood groups, it is pleasant to think of those other guests who make their home under our roof, on our shelves, inside the covers of our books, the creatures of the world's literary imagination, the characters of history and fiction. Like silent hosts they throng the Library. They speak to us from their pages, they mingle in our thoughts, they live with us invisibly, spirits whom we know and feel and even call our friends, but cannot see. Then, along comes an artist, and lo, we see them.

The exhibition of the work of Mr. N. C. Wyeth in the Art Department, April 23 to May 14, consisted, with one or two exceptions, of paintings in oil which have been reproduced as illustrations in well-known books.

RIP VAN WINKLE.

There is Rip Van Winkle with his tavern cronies, when George the Third was king; Rip again, driven from home by his stout shrew, with the children clinging about him but with a look in his eyes that did not make for domestic peace; Rip at last, an old man, with shaggy beard and tattered garments, standing on the threshold of an unknown home with the sunlight of an unfamiliar world falling on his shoulders. There is Captain Nemo, with burning, deep-set eyes, a figure of strangeness against an exotic background. There are the heroes of "Scottish Chiefs," "Westward Ho," and "The White Company," and the Plymouth wayfarers. In the cases of the Exhibition Room, the classics themselves, sixteen in number, which Mr. Wyeth has illustrated, appear in book form, together with a copy of the most recent work which he has adorned, the "Poems of American Patriotism," edited by Brander Matthews. Full of drama, of action, of emotion, are Mr. Wyeth's portraits, and every variety of light is in them, sunlight, candle-light,

even the lightning flashes of the Cats-kill mountain tops.

For us in the Library, to be able to see our Exhibition Room filled with paintings, just by going upstairs of a noon hour, to stand, as the visiting art students did, for minutes at a time before this picture or that, and really enjoy them, to see the Library's "invisible guests" as visualized by Mr. Wyeth, is an opportunity for which all of us are thankful.

C. H.

INTERVIEWING A NEW TRUSTEE.

One appreciates the rich man's difficulty in entering the kingdom of heaven after trying to interview Col. William A. Gaston, our new library trustee. Not that the interviewer, being a library assistant, has even the slightest claim to wealth — Col. Gaston's office, however, is indeed heavenly when reached.

Our new trustee is a busy man, as his office boy, his stenographer and his telephone assure one. He himself is kindly and serene. "You see, there are only so many working hours in a day," he assured the apologetic interviewer, "so why get excited over things?"

He appears much interested in *LIBRARY LIFE*, and asked a great many questions about it. "A publication like that serves a twofold purpose," Colonel Gaston declared. "It brings the Central Library and its Branches close to each other, and it keeps the importance of the whole library system before the public."

"Besides pestering busy business men with futile questions," the amateur interviewer interpolated.

The patient subject of the interview smiled. "Oh, I don't mind questions. No lawyer does. Go ahead. Ask any questions you want to."

QUESTIONS.

Ask questions! And the interviewer (amateur) had been carefully brought up *not* to do just that. Ensued some brain-racking and forehead-wrinkling.

"Well, if you don't mind, please tell

LIBRARY LIFE what a library trustee thinks about," was the result.

"I've only been to one meeting of the Board," the trustee declared, "so I'm hardly sure yet. I regard it as a business proposition, entirely."

"You've been director of a great many corporations and banks, haven't you?"

Col. Gaston nodded. "This time it's books instead of bonds," he said. "I believe the library is becoming more business-like all the time, and that's a good thing. It is going out to meet the public instead of settling back and waiting for the public to discover it."

He expressed an interest in the proposed business men's branch in the downtown district.

"I hope it may come to something," said Col. Gaston, "as a business branch would undoubtedly bring the business and financial sections of Boston more in touch with the scholarly Copley Square."

At this point, the stenographer, office boy and telephone set up a concerted clamor for the busy lawyer and trustee. Reluctantly the representative of *LIBRARY LIFE* departed, with the assurance that the new trustee would be only too glad to answer any question at any time.

The interviewer decided that as an interviewer she was an excellent library assistant.

THE CURRENT MAGAZINES.

Miss Mabel Dunham, Librarian at Kitchener, Ontario, has an amusing skit in the April issue of *Public Libraries*. The various periodicals come to life, meet in conference and have their say in regard to their readers' likes and dislikes, the relation between literature and advertising, and many other timely topics.

In the same number C. H. C. takes a look into the future and tells us of the coming library, which will have only two departments, adult and juvenile; all the ordering, cataloguing, etc., will be done at a central bureau, which will serve all libraries.

Continued from a previous number is the list of "High School Debating Material." This gives hints for a small collection, costing but a few dollars, and a bibliography of all the books mentioned in the two articles.

The *Library Journal* for April 1 opens with an article on the Federal Reclassification Act, which is practically the Sterling-Lehlbach Bill. This new law has been pronounced the most important piece of constructive legislation affecting government personnel since the Civil Service law of 1883. The classification applies to all librarians in Washington, and is bound to help them materially. It promises to place them in appropriate grades in the professional, scientific and sub-professional services of the government.

A novel idea has been initiated in the University of Michigan Library. In the entrance hall, glass cases contain exhibits showing the workings of the various departments. These seem to have proved interesting to the members of the staff, as well as to the public.

An extremely useful list of books on "The American Federation of Labor" is contributed by David J. Saposs. There are only thirty book titles — a collection which any library of fair size might well be able to purchase — together with some twenty-five periodical references.

POPULAR FICTION.

Turning to the same magazine for April 15, we find the opening paper on the "Phenomena of Popularity in Fiction," set forth by Irving H. Hart. A questionnaire was sent out to practically all libraries of considerable size and the returns are here tabulated; 220 books by 128 authors are listed, and there is the greatest divergence of opinion. We give the first five books in the list, with the number of votes cast for each:

1. Three musketeers, Dumas . . . 43
2. Treasure Island, Stevenson . . . 36
3. Les Misérables, Hugo 35
4. Tom Sawyer, Mark Twain . . . 30
5. Count of Monte Cristo, Dumas 27

This list shows that the "best sellers" of the recent past are no longer

in demand. Even Kipling and Conrad are forgotten in the rush for Zane Grey, Mary Roberts Rinchart, and Ethel Dell, Kipling receiving six votes against Zane Grey's forty-nine.

Library work with children is given attention in two articles: one on "Playground Work in St. Louis," the other on "Children's Work in Los Angeles Sub-branches."

The most important contribution to this number is a bibliography of Yiddish literature, by Jennie Meyrowitz, Librarian of the Amalgamated Clothing Workers' Library, New York City. The books in this list were all available for purchase in the United States in October, 1922, at the prices quoted. Brief notes are given on the original Yiddish writers. The whole thing is admirably done. H. W. M.

NUF CED!

Not all the swords are yet beaten into ploughshares, but let us take heart: a Boston bar-room is just being transformed into a Reading-Room of the Public Library. One looks in vain for a face on this bar-room floor, but there is something more permanent. Set in the white mosaic at the entrance are little green letters spelling out the legend "Nuf Ced." And this is not the Welsh for Public Library, as thousands of Boston baseball "fans" will testify, but the sign and symbol of Mr. M. T. McGreevy, former third baseman, organizer of the Boston rooters, and advocate of simplified spelling.

For eight years before the beginning of the "Great Drought," Mr. McGreevy dispensed liquor and sporting "dope" to Boston. This was at the corner of Ruggles and Tremont Streets, the site which is now being reclaimed by the Library as an extension of its Roxbury Crossing Reading Room. After a game, the fans would swarm in here for refreshment, and if Boston had lost, for consolation as well.

In the old saloon the game would be replayed, until the ears of the luckless losing team must have sizzled. Finally, above the shouting and tumult would come the clarion call, "'Nough

said." It was the proprietor, Mr. McGreevy, and the laconic phrase cloaked his hurt disillusion as effectively as the toga of an ancient Roman.

PICTURES.

But that is all long ago and far away. The bar is gone now, and the clinking glasses and bottles, and the cheery bar-keeps, "Al" and "Joe." The pictures have been removed from the walls. These were never the ribald oil paintings one associates with bar-rooms, but had to do with baseball entirely. There were pictures of teams for twenty-five years back; baseball crowds; groups of rooters; celebrated pitchers and catchers; "southpaws" and "home runners" of an earlier day. (Baseball is so quickly reminiscence!) Among the tall bottles in front of the long mirror were balls, inscribed by hero-worshipped hands; bats swung by marvels (where are they now?); catchers' masks; statuettes in bronze of the gods of America's earlier idolatry. A collection to bring tears of envy to the eyes of the most hardened baseball fan. Fortunately, this record of recent history will not be lost to posterity, for Mr. McGreevy has presented the pictures to the Boston Public Library, which has recently displayed them in its Exhibition Room.

The "Nuf Ced" bar-room is excellently built, a triumph of austere architecture. The show-window, in which baseball scores, among other things, were exhibited, will be used to display suggested reading to the people of that section of Roxbury. The bar has been replaced by a desk, where books will be dispensed in place of beer, the morning paper instead of a "pick-me-up." A couple of hard-worked librarians will take the place of the white-coated "bar-keeps." The library attendants will probably have less time for the social amenities, but will be compelled, no doubt, to listen politely to quite as many hard-luck tales as poured into the ears of their predecessors. Not again will the light-hearted harmonizing of jingled tenors and baritones celebrate the "little mother" waiting at home, in Dixie, Ireland,

heaven or elsewhere. In its place will be heard the eager babble of children lately released from school, questing the Blue Fairy book. Now, the scatter of glass-ringed tables has given way to solid furniture, guaranteed to uphold as many as eight volumes of the Encyclopaedia Britannica. The "family entrance" is concealed by book shelves.

Strange mixtures will be demanded and served across the bar — I mean desk. "Please give me a Yiddish story with a happy ending." "I want a book that tells the number of calories in a cup of cocoa." "How many systems of philosophy have you got in this library?"

THE DESTITUTE.

It was Kipling in his cynical youth who declared books to be "the last refuge of the destitute." The Reading Room in Ruggles Street, like all other libraries, will have these to cope with. They will come in droves and demand the latest novel. The latest novel (the Boston Public Library can afford only one copy to a branch) will be out, and the mental destitutes will satirically inquire what is being done with the money lavished upon the institution by the tax-payers. The librarian will wonder bitterly why, though there was enough beer to go round, there will never be enough books.

For the sake of those who regret the passing of other days, the library at Ruggles Street will manage a volume about Sir John Falstaff, another by Omar Khayyám, and — perhaps! — one by a modern, Mr. Don Marquis. And, for old sake's sake, the swinging doors will be retained. M. E. P.

MR. MCGREEVY'S HEROES.

The Art Department emulated the sport page for a few days this month; but the sport displayed on the walls of the Exhibition Room was of a sort quite different from that of which we read every morning, of pinch hitters and hurlers, and such-like present-day heroes of the art of swat. It was the

baseball played from the 'seventies up to the early nineteen hundreds, as illustrated in the photographs collected by Mr. Michael J. McGreevy of "Nuf-Ced" fame, and recently presented by him to the Library.

As far back as 1872 the Boston Athletics had their team photographed at the grandstand of the Boston Base Ball grounds, and in it were McVey, Al Spalding, and the Wright Brothers, Harry and George, names echoed today in two leading firms manufacturing sport goods. Then came the Boston Base Ball Players in 1879, followed by other Boston groups of 1888 to 1891, 1900 and 1910. Like our modern players the earlier clubs had picturesque names, the Champions of 1891, the Shadow Club of 1903, the Boston Rooters in New York in 1904. Here also are Comiskey, "the old Roman," owner of the Chicago Americans, Billy Sunday in 1886 before he "hit the trail," until we get down to familiar ground with the Cubs and the White Sox, and the World Series of October, 1904, at the American League Park on Huntington Avenue, with a record attendance of twenty-eight thousand and the advertisements of the "Hoot Mon" Garter and the Emerson Shoe over the entrance gate.

THE BASEBALL TYPE.

Always the man who played baseball seems to have been young and lean and tall, with a keen eye and sharp features, all that the word "sport" implies. But the fashion in hair-cuts marked his decade. Those were the long-haired days, the days of the heavy, drooping moustaches of melancholy limpness, the chin beards, the bushy whiskers, the thickly clustering locks across the brow.

Style or no style, however, these men were sports, and in any age dear to the hearts of sport lovers. To all such, the ceremony of turning the first spadeful of earth at the American League Grounds by Hi Dixwell in 1901 becomes a solemn rite. Magic lingers in the names of McGraw, Mike Kelly, Jimmie Collins, and in the name of that man without whom no collection

reminiscent of sport is complete, John L. Sullivan.

The Library is grateful to Mr. McGreevy for these vivid pictorial reminiscences of great days gone by.

C. H.

MISS NEWTON'S ANNIVERSARY.

On the evening of Tuesday, May 1, impressive exercises were held in the beautiful Public Library of Arlington, Mass., in honor of the librarian, Miss Elizabeth J. Newton, who completed fifty years of continuous service last January. Mr. Cyrus E. Dallin, a trustee of the library, presented to Miss Newton, on behalf of her friends, a handsome bag containing one thousand dollars in gold. Mr. Belden was present, and, as chairman of the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners, made an address of felicitation, in the course of which he gave an admirably comprehensive survey of the progress of libraries during the period of Miss Newton's tenure of office.

Mr. Belden told of the increase in the library system of the state, until there are now 422 free public libraries, with 226 branches and 3527 school and other deposits — a total of 4175 public book agencies — in the 355 cities and towns of Massachusetts. Among the developments in library work during the fifty years, Mr. Belden emphasized open shelves, card catalogues, specially trained librarians, expert work with children, including the story-hour, co-operation with the schools, and various social and educational activities. He spoke further of more recent phenomena, like the growth of information services, the use of the telephone, the rise of special libraries, modern methods of publicity, the inter-library loan system, the development of sponsorships for knowledge, and active Americanization work by libraries.

The occasion was a notable one, and LIBRARY LIFE wishes to add its word of congratulation to Miss Newton on reaching this conspicuous milestone in her long and honored career.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of three, with the assistance of sixteen sub-editors representing the various departments and branches of the Library.

EDITORIAL BOARD

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Vol. II, No. 8.

May 15, 1923

TRADITION AND PROGRESS.

On April 30 nine of the older members of the Library staff were retired from active service. Two had preceded them, and Mr. Karlson has gone since. We little know as yet what these changes mean.

An institution consists largely of human personalities; it takes its character from that of the men and women who direct it and do its work. It widens with their vision, it narrows with their prejudices, it moves by their impulses, it stands still on account of their inertia. Among those who have stepped forth from among us are men and women who have set standards, who have laid foundations, who have made a deep impress upon the life of the Library. And we are thankful for every one of them — for the loyalty, the wisdom, the labor with which they have sought to fit the institution to the needs of their time, as they have seen and felt them.

A new generation is coming in, little by little, to take up the work where these older men and women have laid it down. They will find precious and time-honored traditions in the various departments of the Library, and in its branches and reading rooms. Some of these traditions will seem to them antiquated and ready for the discard, and they will be eager to substitute something better and fresher. Let us be careful, however, that in our anxiety for progress we do no violence to the honest work of the past, that we be not too scornful of methods that have

borne good fruit, or machinery that is not yet worn out.

The new of to-day is the old of to-morrow. But the old of to-day was the new of yesterday, and often the best of its time. "One good custom" must not be allowed to be a source of corruption; but neither must the untried promise of the new be allowed to throw all the good things of the past on the scrap-heap. Progress is most beneficial when it is continuous and unbroken. Let us respect the system which our friends are leaving to us — the machine which they made and used; and let us go slowly and patiently as we seek to adapt it to the time which we see hastening upon us.

The Boston Public Library is greater than any group of individuals; it transcends them both in scope and in age. It was here before we came, it will be here after we are gone. While we are here, we are, in a very real sense, the Library; but we are only links in a chain. Let us see that we and our methods are firmly attached to the links that preceded us, and that we seek in all our work to carry on unbroken the fine tradition of the past, that our progress may be true in direction and steady in its movement. Only so will the Boston Public Library continue to be a great library — a home of learning, an educator of the people, the servant of all the city.

LIBRARY CLUBS.

The members of the staff who were so fortunate as to see the artistic production of "Madame Butterfly" by the North End Library Clubs received a striking demonstration of the social possibilities of library work. Every library is a natural community centre; every librarian who has vision and the power of leadership can make her library a force for the all-round development of the community in which it is placed. Under three successive librarians, the North End Clubs have flourished and done notable work; and the people of the quarter warmly recognize the library's importance in their life.

But this sort of thing requires devotion; it requires insight. The club leadership must be steady, enthusiastic, sympathetic, self-forgetful. Much of the work with the clubs has to be carried on in the librarian's own time, outside library hours; but the human results make it worth while, if one's heart is in it.

And not every section of the city needs the same sort of clubs. Miss Kenney's clubs at Upham's Corner were of one type, and at the North End of another; but the same spirit was behind both. LIBRARY LIFE congratulates Miss Curley on the success of the North End entertainment, and on the evidence which it gave of spirited leadership in the life of the district, maintaining without a break the fine ideal of service set up there many years ago.

THE CONSTITUTION.

The process of ratifying the Constitution of the United States, as framed by the Convention of 1787, was a slow one; but this was due to no lack of interest on the part of the several states. Last month, LIBRARY LIFE printed a long article on the new constitution of the Benefit Association, following shorter articles in the three preceding issues of the paper. A copy of the revised document had been placed in the hands of every member. Yet at the meeting called to act on the constitution, on Monday, May 14, out of a membership of 300, the Association was able to muster only about 25 to consider this important matter. We evidently do not care.

The Committee has worked long and hard; the new constitution closely affects the interests — yes, the pocket-books — of all the members. There were a hundred men and women in the building that afternoon at 5, just through work for the day. But we did not care; we went home. No radical action was taken, as everything to which anyone objected was postponed to the next meeting. But action cannot be postponed forever.

This constitution is our affair, and

ought to have the careful thought of every member of the Association. It is a personal concern of each of us, not that of the Public Library as a whole; it will be considered, as is proper, in a series of meetings to be held in our own time. There is no reason why the City should pay us for discussing our personal business.

The next meeting is called for Monday, May 28, at 5 p.m. Those who fail to attend cannot complain if the action taken does not suit them.

LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES.

The following members of the staff, having reached the requisite age limit, left the Library service under the Boston Retirement Act on April 30:

Elizabeth Ainsworth, Librarian, Hyde Park Branch.

Otto Fleischner, Assistant Librarian.

M. Addie Hill, Librarian, Dorchester Lower Mills.

John P. Malone, First Assistant Engineer.

Elizabeth P. Reed, Librarian, Dorchester Branch.

Lucy E. Soule, Bindery.

Mary P. Swain, Librarian, Jamaica Plain Branch.

Isabel E. Wetherald, Librarian, Mt. Bowdoin Branch.

Alice M. Wing, First Assistant, East Boston Branch.

LIBRARY LIFE says goodbye this month to Mr. Charles W. Karlson, electrician, long of the Engineer Department of this Library, who takes leave of us under the provisions of the Retirement Act.

The Library has in a sense grown up with Mr. Karlson. For nearly three years before the completion of the present structure in Copley Square, when he was in the employ of the General Electric Company, he did the wiring of the building. As soon as it was opened to the public, he came here to work regularly, and has been with us ever since.

Mr. Karlson, we hail you as one who

has performed faithful, skilled service to the Library for many years, one who has ever kept our lamps shining brightly, our electric bells ringing clearly. Sir, we wish you godspeed!

NEWS NOTES.

His Honor the Mayor has appointed Colonel William A. Gaston a Trustee of the Library to fill the vacancy left by the resignation of Bishop Mann. His term will expire April 30, 1925.

Mr. Guy W. Currier, who was appointed to complete the term of the late Samuel Carr on the Board of Trustees, has been reappointed by Mayor Curley for the full term of five years, dating from May 1, 1923.

The City Council passed the budget at its meeting on May 7. The Library appropriation amounts to \$779,935, an increase of \$37,942 over that of last year.

The staff extends its sincere sympathy to Miss Helen Hilton, of the Branch Department, whose father died on April 4. The funeral services were held on April 6, at the Phillips Congregational Church, South Boston.

On Thursday, April 26, a daughter, Marie, was born to Mr. and Mrs. James S. Kennedy. Mrs. Kennedy was formerly Marie Gross of the Registration Department. Mr. Kennedy has been busy passing out cigars to his fellow workers in the Library.

Mr. James P. Gannon, of the Bindery, is the proud father of a baby girl born May fifteenth at the St. Elizabeth Hospital, Brighton.

On Easter Sunday, April 1, Miss Mary Murphy, formerly of the Issue Department, received the habit of a Sister of Charity at the mother house of that order at Convent Station, New Jersey. She also received her name

in religion, by which she will be hereafter known, Sister Marie Eileen.

Mr. Louis E. Kirstein, Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, is in Europe on a trip to extend over several months.

Miss Margaret A. Sheridan, librarian of the South End Branch, addressed the Nurses' Alumnae Association of the Boston City Hospital on Tuesday evening, May 1; her subject was "The Library in the Community."

Miss Florence Blunt, accompanied by about 25 members of the "C-2" class of the Simmons College Library School (the one-year course for college graduates and special students), visited the Library on the afternoon of Thursday, April 26. After Mr. Belden had addressed the class in the Trustees' Room, they were conducted over the Library, finishing their journey at the Staff Room, where tea and other refreshments were served by the ladies of the staff.

On Wednesday morning, May 2, Professor Everett L. Getchell brought a class of about 50 young men from the College of Business Administration of Boston University to visit the Library. The young men were addressed by Mr. Belden in the Staff Lecture Room, and were then conducted through the public departments of the Library, as a means of acquainting them with its resources.

Mrs. Edwin A. Abbey, who has been a constant visitor to the Library during the last few months, will sail for England early in June.

Miss Mary Young, Boston's favorite actress, came into the Library recently to look over our Shakespeareana. The former leading lady of the Castle Square Theatre intends to present a short repertory with the assistance of the company at the Malden Auditorium. Whenever Miss Young comes

home, Boston is proud and pleased to see her.

On Monday evening, May 7, at a dance held under the auspices of the Marian Club, of the Church of Our Lady of Pompeii, in the New State Ballroom, Miss Christina ("Tina") Meano, of the Bates Hall Centre Desk, was chosen as the most beautiful Italian girl in Greater Boston. Miss Alexandra Carlisle (Mrs. Pfeffer) of "The Fool" company, and three gentlemen, acted as judges. Over 100 girls from all parts of Greater Boston were in the competition. The prize was a beautiful engraved gold watch. Miss Meano has been very busy receiving congratulations.

On Tuesday evening, May 8, on the occasion of the banquet of the South End Improvement Association in the new Archbishop John J. Williams Municipal Building, Miss Margaret Sheridan, as the oldest resident of the building, was invited to speak. She welcomed the Association and invited them to use the Library; she was gratified the next day, when a number of the members presented themselves as applicants for Library cards.

Mrs. Agnes C. Blake, of the Salem Normal School, brought the young ladies of her library class, in two detachments, to the Library last month. The groups were conducted over the building by members of the staff, and found much to interest them. The Library is always glad to welcome Mrs. Blake and her enthusiastic students.

The recent local drive for books for the use of sailors of the American Merchant Marine, with its headquarters at the Boston Public Library, has secured, up to May 15, about 38,000 volumes, besides innumerable magazines. The boxes still stand in the lower hall of the Library, and contributions are welcome; the sailors will read all the books that their friends provide. Mr. Belden is chairman of the Boston Committee.

The appearance of the Bates Hall Catalogue is being improved with new labels on the drawers. These have been treated with several coats of shellac and banana oil, rendering them fairly impervious to dirt. About 600 labels are changed each week.

The results of the final examination in Professor Rogers's first course in American Literature have been published, and it is pleasant to note that the instructor seems gratified with the showing made. He says:

"The examination papers were far better than those last year in English literature. There was evidence of more reading and of far more exact knowledge of material. A large proportion of the papers are of certificate grade (75 per cent), and a good many better than that. . . . The results seem to me to compare favorably with those of the average college section."

Of the 38 employees of the Library who obtained a grade of 60 per cent or over, eleven reached 85 per cent. Oscar Karrel, of the Bates Hall Centre Desk (now in the Librarian's office) received 95, the highest mark given.

Thirty-nine members of the Library staff are enrolled in the supplementary course now in progress, as compared with 49 in the first course.

Among the designs submitted by students in the art schools of Boston for a bookplate to be placed in each of the books collected in Massachusetts for the American Merchant Marine Library Association, which were exhibited in the lower hall of the Library, the first prize was won by that of Miss Edith Johansson. The bookplate shows a ship, seen through a port-hole, below which is a pile of books.

During the Boston engagement of the Moscow Art Theatre Company the recent series of etchings, "The Russian Players," by Bernhardt Wall, supplemented by a collection of photogravures and colored prints showing these distinguished and picturesque players in repertory, was displayed in the Exhibition Room of the Library.

The town of Wakefield has a fine new library building, recently erected by Mr. Junius Beebe at a cost of \$200,000 as a memorial to his father, Lucius Beebe. The new library was formally dedicated on Saturday, April 14, with an address by the Rev. Dr. Samuel W. McComb, of Cambridge.

The libraries of New York State have completed thirty years of library development under the system of state aid and supervision adopted in 1892. At that time the public libraries of the state numbered 95; last year reports were received from 686. Despite this phenomenal growth there still exists a population of at least 1,300,000, living in the rural sections of New York, who are strangers to all public-library privileges.

TEN-BOOK LISTS.

During the past month the Ten-book Lists have been as follows, keeping closely in touch with the current interests and events of the season: Lexington and Concord, a list for Patriots' Day, and Mothers' Day and some of the great mothers, by Mary A. Tenney; Trout fishing, by John Murdoch; Home management and equipment, and Home furnishing and decoration, by Winthrop H. Chenery; The Moscow Art Theatre, by Richard G. Appel.

A PROGRAMME.

The complete programme of the entertainment of April 3, in honor of the Pension Committee, was crowded out of the last issue of LIBRARY LIFE. We print it below, in recognition of the fine work done by every person who took part.

- I. CHORUS: LIBRARY CHORAL SOCIETY.
Now is the Month of Maying.
Legend of the Chimes.
Why are All Roses Red?
The frog.
- II. DUETS: Elsie W. Coolidge and Alice E. Hanson
Barcarolle.
June Rhapsody.
- III. CHORUS. LIBRARY CHORAL SOCIETY.
There Were Four Lilies.

O, No, John.
Sing-A-Ling-A-Ling.

IV. ONE-ACT PLAY:

WHERE SHALL WE GO?

By HENRI LAVEDAN.

CAST OF CHARACTERS.

M. Devain	Frank H. Chase
Mme. Devain	Alice M. Jordan
Their daughters:	
Germaine	Esther Lissner
Jeanne	Mary E. Prim
Louise	Bessie L. Doherty
Agatha	Edith A. von Schoppe
Blanche	Harriet J. Kelleher
Scene: Sitting room in the home of the Devains.	

Time: One o'clock on a Sunday afternoon.

MANAGEMENT.

Christine Hayes, Director, assisted by Frank C. Blaisdell, Mary H. Daly, Della J. Deery, and Eleanor M. Mulcahey.

V. MINSTREL SHOW:

THE LIBRARY MINSTRELS

PRESENT

"BANDANNA DAYS"

Produced under the direction of William F. A. Graham; assisted by Richard G. Appel, Musical director; Mary M. McDonough, Dancing director; and Alice M. Jordan and William C. Maiers, Jr., of the Committee of Arrangement.

Property manager, Frank C. Blaisdell.

PROGRAMME.

1. Overture: NC4 March Orchestra
2. Opening Chorus: Entire Company
 - (a) Bandanna Days
 - (b) I'll Build a Stairway to Paradise
 - (c) Lovin' Sam
3. Ballad: Crinoline Days. Edith A. von Schoppe
4. End Song: Coal Black Mammy Michael J. Conroy
5. Ballad: I'm Just a Little Blue Daniel P. Bowen
6. Dancing Specialty Alice F. Smithers
7. Ballad: Love Sends a Little Gift of Roses Ruth M. Hayes
8. End Song: I Love Me Thomas J. Manning
9. Ballad: Dreams of Long Ago John J. Matchett
10. End Song: Barney Google James J. Kelley
11. Ballad: Wake up, Little Girl Helen O'Hara
- 11a. Song and Dance Josephine O'Sullivan
12. Ballad: Sweethearts Julie R. Zaugg
13. End Song: Lovin' Sam James E. Kennedy
14. Reading: Pension Rimes, by the author Emil Hofman
15. Dancing Specialty: The Presentation Jig Mary M. McDonough and Alice M. Kernan
16. Finale: Entire Company
 - (a) Ten o'Clock in the Evening
 - (b) Bandanna Days

CAST.

Interlocutor: John J. O'Brien.

End Men: Michael J. Conroy, Thomas J. Manning, James J. Kelley, James E. Kennedy, Harry Schromm, William Graham.

Front Row Girls: Alice M. Kernan, Ruth von Schoppe, Ethel M. Hazlewood, Minna Steinberg, Edith J. Daly, Helen M. Burke, Virginia M. Tint, Mary M. McDonough.

Chorus: Girls: Anna L. Manning, Mary H. Daly, Mary M. Burke, Harriet Kelleher, Margaret E. Sinclair, Anna M. Brannen, Edith A. von Schoppe, Ruth M. Haycs, Mary F. Daly, Anna M. Twomey, Eileen Foley, Julie R. Zaugg, Mary English, Helen O'Hara, Louise Coleman. Men: John H. Sullivan, Robert E. Owen, Daniel P. Bowen, Joseph A. Gallagher, Lawrence McKenzie, John J. Matchett, Leo Foley, Charles O'Brien.

ORCHESTRA.

Richard G. Appel, Piano; William E. Clegg, Violin; John M. Barry, Banjo; Paul B. Reardon, Clarinet; Arthur E. Connor, Drums.

Spotlight operator, John B. Thurston.

COMMITTEE OF ARRANGEMENT.

Alice M. Jordan, Chairman.

M. Florence Cufflin	Richard Appel
Mary F. Curley	S. A. Chevalier
Christine Hayes	Ralph E. Ford
William C. Maiers, Jr.	

USHERS.

Frank C. Blaisdell	
John Murdoch	Walter Rowlands

"HOME, SWEET HOME."

The Library recently took part in the world-wide celebration of the 100th anniversary of "Home Sweet Home." If few songs have had such an interesting origin, still fewer are the libraries that can illustrate the story so adequately.

There were assembled facsimiles of the original melody for which John Howard Payne wrote his immortal text; of the original score of the opera "Clari," the work of Sir Henry Bishop; pictures of Maria Tree, who first sent the song on its winged way and of other singers who have carried it over the wide world: Anna Bishop, Jenny Lind, Patti. The libretto of the ballet pantomime which gave Payne the idea of his play was also shown, together with pictures of several of the characters in costume.

A gracious tribute to the famous song was paid by the Library Staff Choristers, some forty in number, who gathered on the main staircase at noon,

Tuesday, May 8, and sang the familiar strains, under the direction of Mr. Appel.

SOUTH COVE MEETING.

On the 25th of April, the South Cove Civic Committee held an open meeting at the Tyler Street Branch Library, to which some of the local city officials were invited. For some time the Library has been the meeting place of this Committee, which comprises some thirty members representing all the principal organizations, public and private, as well as the leading nationalities, of the South Cove section of the city. The Committee was created to foster the common interests of the community.

The special guests of the evening were Mr. Jordan, who represented the Board of Health, Assistant Superintendent Brodhead, of the School Committee, and his wife, Mr. Swan, Master of the Quincy School, with his wife, and Mr. George S. Upham, Chairman of the Clean-Up Campaign, with Mrs. Upham. Each had a few words of greeting for the gathering, though the meeting was arranged not for speech-making, but for the purpose of giving members an opportunity to meet the city officials. The chairman, Mr. W. E. Shakir, with Miss Pendleton, the librarian, and Miss Scoff, Secretary of the Committee, were in the receiving line with the guests of honor.

A member of the Chinese Young Men's Christian Association sang a couple of Hawaiian songs, accompanying himself on the ukelele, and a group of boys, "The Big Brothers" of the Quincy School, assisted in serving the refreshments. The evening was truly social, with an atmosphere of kindness and good feeling and real public spirit on the part of all present, such as the Library feels it a privilege to promote.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION.

The seventh meeting of the Special Libraries Association for the current season was held April 23 at the Library

of the Massachusetts Horticultural Society. There were 37 members present.

Miss Canavan read a report on the Engineering Section, which it is hoped will be the first of several sections of the Association. Mr. Maynard and Dr. Bigelow are also on the committee, and there will be a meeting soon for organization and enrolment. Mrs. Hartzell, chairman of the nominating committee, read the following nominations for next year: Walter B. Briggs, of the Harvard College Library, President; Daniel N. Handy, Insurance Library Association, Vice-President; Mrs. Ruth Lane, Vail Library, Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Secretary; Miss Christine Beck, Associated Industries of Massachusetts, Treasurer.

ANNUAL MEETING.

It was announced that the May meeting will be postponed till Saturday afternoon, June 2; this will be the annual meeting, for business and election. The members will be the guests of Mr. George Winthrop Lee, at his house in Concord. It was voted that a committee investigate the resources of the Association, to see if it can properly contribute toward rebuilding the Library of Louvain University and toward the work of the Merchant Marine Library Association.

After the business meeting, Mr. William P. Rich, librarian of the Horticultural Society since 1902, gave a cordial welcome, and read a paper on the scope and history of the Library, which was founded in 1829 and has shown no lapse of interest or activity since that time. The library is not public, but investigators are cordially welcome to use its volumes within the building. They will find a collection of 25,000 volumes, and 12,000 horticultural and agricultural trade catalogues, covering the past hundred years, the largest group of its kind in the country, except that of the United States Department of Agriculture. The Library issues an annual bulletin and publishes reports on special subjects. Mr. Rich referred to the development of special libraries

as a possible solution for the problem of administering the ever increasing mass of books. The library is open from 9 to 5 on weekdays, and from 1 to 6 on exhibition Sundays.

Mr. E. M. East, head of the Department of Plant Genetics in the Bussey Institution, spoke on the Institution and its work. The meeting was adjourned at 9.15.

MADAME BUTTERFLY.

On the evening of April 30 a smiling and serene hostess welcomed members of the Staff Club to the North End Branch. There was not a trace of care or anxiety in her manner, although at the moment bristling preparations were going on for the first presentation of the play which Miss Curley had been coaching for several weeks. As the evening advanced, her confidence was justified, as the members of the North End Library Clubs presented, smoothly and capably, Acts II and III of "Madame Butterfly," before a crowded hall.

An excellent concert program preceded the performance. We sternly forbade our toes to join in the "Parade of the Wooden Soldiers," snappily played by the Kenney Juniors Library Club Orchestra. Hearty applause followed the song, "La Separazione," by Altomare Vallarelli, the dance, "Tarantella," by Mildred Racioppi, and the song, "Musica Proibita," by our always popular Miss Cella. During the evening there was a further and unexpected pleasure for those present, when Mrs. James Ernest King, wife of the "Librarian" of the *Transcript*, gave an artistic rendition of the aria "One day he will return."

After the opening concert, with a rustle of anticipation from the audience, the curtain rose upon a room in the home of Cho-Cho-San, "Madame Butterfly." The stage setting, prepared by Nunzio Mancinelli, assisted by Frank Mattarazzo, called forth a loud murmur of admiration. Through the partly open "shoji," the sliding screens which made the walls, were viewed

flowering cherry trees, festoons of wistaria and rows of tulips, poppies and iris, the work of Miss Curley. Within the typical Japanese interior stood an impressive Buddha, enshrined in one corner of the room, while opposite, in direct contrast, was a piece of modern American furniture, Lieutenant Pinkerton's arm-chair.

THE CHARACTERS.

The principal character in the play was interpreted by Miss Anna Pepe, who in make-up and manner presented a sweet and wistful Cho-Cho-San. Her transition from joyous anticipation to grief-stricken realization was very convincing. Many in the audience were outwardly moved by the wife's enthusiastic preparations for her husband's return, and her resignation following the pathetic nightlong watch. Miss Pepe as Madame Butterfly showed real artistic power.

Suzuki, the maid, enacted by Miss Altomare Vallarelli, shone forth by her spirit of deep devotion and sad presentiment.

Nunzio Mancinelli, as Mr. Sharpless, the American consul and friend of Lieutenant Pinkerton, emphasized gravely the delicacy of his position as the bearer of sad tidings to the trusting little wife. Guido Calonico, as Lieutenant Pinkerton, Hector Squilliciotti as Yamadori, Rosario Venuti as Nakodo and Miss Josephine Dello Russo as Pinkerton's wife, Kate, were all effective in their respective parts. Much praise is due to Mrs. Vincenza Mancinelli, who designed and made the costumes and gave generous assistance in many other ways.

The ambitious and successful undertaking of the North End Library Clubs is worthy of repetition on other boards. From such a combination of energy and artistic temperament favorable results were assured.

High praise is due to the untiring efforts and critical faculties of Miss Mary Curley, who early in the opera season was sent by Club members to witness "Madame Butterfly," equipped with "a very fine pair of opera glasses," that she might observe all the details

of stage setting, costumes and acting, for future use. She certainly observed to good effect!

M. A. M.

IMPRESSIONS OF A VILLAGE LIBRARY.

A feature of the recent Institute for Librarians was the talk given in the Lecture Hall of the Library by Mr. John A. Lowe, now assistant librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library. Although it was entitled "Impressions of a Village Library," it was filled with suggestions equally applicable to the problems of our own Library and its branches. He advocated using the methods of the District Nursing Association, the Red Cross, even the Ladies' Aid—the tying up of newcomers in a town to an organization, by asking them to take an active part in its work.

"Interest the business man, the taxpayer," said Mr. Lowe, "and do this by rendering such service that his indifference will change to enthusiasm, his contempt to loyalty. A taxpayer demands that the Library shall have an organization with a plan personal enough to interest him, and that the librarian shall be sufficiently business-like to command his respect. The librarian should endeavor to secure the interest of the taxpayer in the library just as he secures the interest of his friends, by his own enthusiasm. He should have a plan for propaganda which involves whole groups, in order to make sure of enlisting the sympathy of a few individuals.

"Notices should be inserted in the newspapers at least weekly; if you haven't new books to offer, write about worth-while books that you have. Talk books, wherever you go. Talk about them at the meetings of the Ladies' Aid, the Parent-Teachers' Association, wherever a few are gathered together. Start group reading-clubs; organize the clubs, see that good officers are chosen, supply the books and the room, and the clubs will run themselves. See to it that there is not a program of any organization in your town which does not contain something about your

books or your library. If your town is dead, stimulate it, electrify it, do something dynamic! When it comes to 'getting' individuals, we should be just as alert as are commercial people.

"To carry out such a program requires proper appropriations, surely the same, in proportion, as those for the schools. You should demand this. You should fight hard and fight all the time for money to administer the library properly. The business man respects success. He appreciates results, not excuses, not complaints of conditions, not whimpering. Taxpayers are willing to support the librarian who has a large vision and is willing to work for support. Oftentimes they withhold their support because of the way in which they are approached. Make your appeals for larger appropriations with assurance, with enthusiasm. All the taxpayer demands is that the library shall give in return for the funds appropriated something that he can call real service, the latest authoritative books on the subjects that interest him. Get books as tools, tools for everyone seeking them. A librarian is 75 per cent of the library; a complete understanding of the contents of a book and of the human beings with whom he has to deal is what makes a librarian. With all your extension of community service, always remember that your best service will be winning the 'ones'; let the mob pass by. Choose the few rare spirits and cherish their flames. You may be an instrument in the hand of God to shape a mind for eternity"

H. S.

ORGANIZATIONS.

STAFF CLUB.

The annual meeting of the Staff Club will be held in the Staff Lecture Room on Friday evening, May 25, at 7.45. At this meeting the following amendment to the Constitution will be offered for vote:

ARTICLE 3. MEMBERSHIP, to be amended by the following addition: Members of the Staff Club who leave the Library under the Boston Retirement Act may retain their membership as long as they continue to pay the annual dues.

The nominating committee has submitted the names of the following persons as officers for the year 1923-24:

PRESIDENT, Miss Mary F. Curley, Librarian, North End Branch.

VICE-PRESIDENT, Mr. Lucien E. Taylor, Catalogue Department.

SECRETARY, Miss Mary E. Prim, Information Department.

TREASURER, Miss Anna L. Manning, Children's Department.

EXECUTIVE COMMITTEE,

Mr. William F. A. Graham, Catalogue Department. (To fill the unexpired term of Miss Mary Curley.) Term expires 1925.

Miss Alice Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children. Term expires 1926.

Miss Marion A. McCarthy, Branch Department. Term expires 1926.

The Hospitality Committee are active in preparation for a May Party to follow the business meeting, and they hope for a record attendance.

LIBRARY SPIRIT CLUB.

On Friday evening, April 20, the Library Spirit Club held a ribbon party in the Staff Lecture Room. The occasion was marked by the first public appearance of the Club's six-piece orchestra, whose playing was excellent and promises much for the future enjoyment of the Club. The committee in charge of the evening consisted of Arthur Buckley, chairman, Edith Daly, Harriet Kelleher and William F. A. Graham. Refreshments of ice cream and cake were served in individual boxes. At the next meeting a two-act play will be presented by members of the Club, assisted by the Club Orchestra.

THE BENEFIT ASSOCIATION'S SICK LIST.

Two members of the Association, reported in last month's list, are still absent on account of illness: Miss Marian W. Brackett and Miss Anna G. Lynch. The editors regret the failure to include last month the name of Miss Mary R. Santino, of the Issue Department, who returned to work March 19, after an illness of some duration. Miss Fanny Goldstein, librarian of the West End Branch, returned to her post on May 8, after a serious operation, from which she has made a good recovery.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume III, No. 1

October 15, 1923

CONTENTS.

LIBRARY WEEK AT SILVER BAY	1	EDITORIALS	8
SIDELIGHTS ON THE OPEN-SHELF ROOM	1	SUMMER IMPROVEMENTS	9
A MYSTERY STORY FROM THE CATALOGUE DEPARTMENT	3	TEAM WORK	10
LIBRARIES IN PRISONS	3	"MANY MARRIAGES"	10
COURSES IN THE LIBRARY	4	NEWS NOTES	11
THE BENTON BEQUEST	5	FICTION OR NON-FICTION	14
CHILDREN'S BOOKS	5	EXAMINATIONS	14
EXHIBITIONS	6	LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS	14
COLLEGE MEN	6	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION	15
LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES	6	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	16
		STAFF CLUB	16

LIBRARY WEEK AT SILVER BAY.

A union meeting of the Bibliographical Society of America, the Massachusetts Library Club, the Connecticut Library Association, the Librarians of Large Libraries, and the New York Library Association, was held at Silver Bay, Lake George, N. Y., during the week beginning September 3. About 450 persons took the opportunity to visit this beautiful resort, which proved to be an ideal spot for such a gathering, combining, as it does, scenic and athletic attractions with exceptional accommodations for a conference.

Sessions were held mornings and evenings throughout the week. The program was designed to develop ideas of interest to workers in large and small libraries, on subjects ranging from library planning to the recent possibilities of radio in the library.

The noon conferences (from 12 to 1) were of a tempting and tantalizing variety—one wanted to attend them all. It was pleasant to note that the Boat House, an attractive out-of-door auditorium, where Miss Alice Jordan presided at the daily round-table conference on Children's Work and Book

Selection, proved the strongest magnet, judging from the numbers who flocked to it each noon.

The afternoons were left free for the various excursions and "hikes" planned by the active entertainment committee. The initiative of this committee, in combination with the natural resources of Silver Bay, resulted in "something doing every minute," from steamer trips and mountain climbs to amateur plays and choral singing.

The Boston Public Library was represented at the conference by six members of the staff: Mr. Belden, Miss Jordan, Miss Mary Toy, Miss Florence Cufflin, Miss Marion McCarthy, and Miss Katherine Gorham.

M. A. M.

SIDELIGHTS ON THE OPEN-SHELF ROOM.

In view of the approaching third anniversary of the Open Shelf Room, it seems appropriate to reprint the following spicy impression of the room from the Librarian's column of the *Boston Evening Transcript* for Sept. 12:

"The Open-Shelf Room on the ground floor of the Boston Public Library is being managed a deal more cleverly than the average visitor, not blessed

or cursed with an inquiring or inquisitive turn of mind, is likely to realize. In fact, as the Librarian has ascertained by various processes of investigation, the limited quarters allotted to the open-shelf department in Copley Square are veritably crammed with trade secrets.

"That little pile of books on a desk in the corner of one of the rooms where the office is—please note its aspect carefully. The volumes—only five or six are in the pile—have the air of being books temporarily withdrawn from circulation, or of being reserved, perhaps, for some special reader. On this account, it is a foregone conclusion that they will seem more interesting, more attractive, to some chance visitor than any of the hundreds of books kept on the regular shelves. Their location gives them a certain flavor of secrecy, or at least of privacy. Anxiously the chance visitor asks if she may take out "one of those special books." The librarian kindly assents, but avoids giving assent with too evident readiness. That might betray the fact that those books were placed in a little corner by themselves with the special purpose of attracting interest from certain chance visitors.

THE BOOK OF THE MINUTE.

"For that matter, have you noticed that eight out of ten regular patrons of the open-shelf department, upon entering the inner room where most of the books are kept, do not go at once to the shelves, but always stop first at the table where the books are placed which have just been returned to the library. The inward mental argument seems to be, 'Here are the books which others have found desirable. We'd better look at them at once. If we had come five minutes sooner, they might not yet have been returned. They would still have been beyond our reach. If we had come five minutes later, someone else might have taken them.' The argument may not pass through the patron's mind in any conscious or regular order, but the basis of its appeal is always present. Nor is that

appeal anything other than a natural and fitting phenomenon. What others want, we want; unless we be individualists of a very unusual order.

"Although it is the new books of non-fiction on which most emphasis is placed in the open-shelf department at Copley Square, the librarian of this room has an exceedingly skilful way of attending to the old books. Not content with keeping the regular divisions of travel, biography, history, and so on, well stocked with substantial volumes of standard character, she goes about in the stacks of the Boston Public Library's vast central reservoir and carefully chooses from among the hundreds of thousands of volumes various books of particular interest, or entertainment. Among them are many which have not been drawn 'for home use' during many years past. Yet very soon after being placed in the open-shelf department, they are almost certain to attract the attention of some reader. Often they begin to circulate quite briskly again, after ten years or more of repose. It is a real service not only to readers, but also to forgotten authors which is so performed.

"And a trade-secret of the selections made in this way is that the library assistant in charge of the open-shelf room makes many of her selections solely on the grounds of the oddness and quaintness, occasionally even of the pure ridiculousness of certain of the books which catch her eye in the vast central stacks. It is skilful work, helpful work, unusually thoughtful and well inspired library service.

THE MAKING OF A BOSTONIAN.

"The Information Office conducted in conjunction with the open-shelf department also goes on in a valuable and helpful manner. Not long ago, among the dozens of visitors who use the office daily, there came a middle-aged lady who had just arrived in Boston, a total stranger who had never been in this city before. Straight from the station she came to the library, and in the library straight to the information office did she make her way. Divers

and sundry questions she asked, and many direct and suitable answers did she receive, although she did not say what the principal purpose of her questioning was, but left the whole matter somewhat vague and secret. What was the librarian's surprise when, only fifteen minutes later, the lady returned to the room and said, 'Well, I've decided to stay in Boston. I had no idea, a little while ago, that I would. I had always heard how stiff and unresponsive Boston people were. But you are not stiff a bit. You are most kind. I shall stay in Boston.'"

A MYSTERY STORY FROM THE CATALOGUE DEPARTMENT.

The Scarlet Macaw. By G. E. Locke.
L. C. Page. \$1.90.

LIBRARY LIFE welcomes another mystery tale from the hand of Miss Gladys E. Locke, whose flight from her desk in the Catalogue Department has this time taken her and her many readers to the midst of London. It is artistic London that she shows us. The characters, though wealthy enough to employ solicitors, have reached opulence by means of the arts. A writer of critical and biographical studies, a producer of musical extravaganzas on a mammoth scale, a successful woman playwright, make up a group of creative workers, having in their train a dancer and a violinist. Of those engaged in humbler pursuits, there are a companion-secretary who earns a living by typing manuscript, her beau employed in the firm of solicitors, and a little seamstress who does plain sewing for the beautiful lady-playwright. But the little seamstress is a girl with a past, and, for the matter of that, so are many of the other leading characters, not excepting the beautiful, much-loved lady, and the producer of shows, who had taken honors in chemistry at the university, but later turned his skill to such diabolical uses. On the surface they are a group of first-rate people, but all the materials for trouble are theirs,—

love, beauty, wealth, jealousy, broken hearts and ambitions. Once the emotions are stirred, the old scores of the hated past begin to rankle, violent death follows, the omniscient detective comes to the fore, and the perils of leading a double life are laid bare. The reader may guess from these details that Miss Locke has provided plenty of thrills in the course of her story.

C. H.

LIBRARIES IN PRISONS.

That the very successful prison library exhibit, held last month in the Rogers Building in connection with the American Prison Congress, had background as well as "atmosphere," was largely due to the prompt and energetic action of our kind friends at the Boston Public Library. At the eleventh hour it was found that the fifteen feet of clear wall-space needed to display the posters and pictures according to plan were not forthcoming; we must sacrifice either artistic effect or a place in the limelight. We chose the latter, but included in the "limelight" wall-space were enormous plaster casts, and we could not quite bring ourselves to follow the suggestion of a by-stander that we should hang burlap over these and pin the posters on the burlap. However, "when you want anything, go to the Boston Public Library" has long been our watchword,—and we went. From Mr. Belden's sanctum down through the Branch Department and the Shipping Room, even through the coal bins, we went, and with the combined efforts of Mr. Belden, Miss Guerrier, Mr. Dixon, and I don't know how many others, the war-chest was rifled and three folds of the big war-poster screens were dragged out, wiped of the accumulation of the dust of the peace years, nails substituted for missing pins, and next morning they were delivered by the Boston Public Library trucks, together with thirty-nine or so packages of books which Miss McCurdy had been receiving and storing for us—and the day was saved! We had achieved a background.

THE PRISON CONGRESS.

To go back to the beginning: two years ago the Prison Congress asked the A. L. A. if it could not do for the prisons what it did for the hospitals during the war, in organizing efficient libraries. The A. L. A. sent round a questionnaire, found that the proportion of ex-service men in prisons was considerable, and voted to use part of the money remaining from its War Service Funds to buy books for the penal institutions in which any considerable number of ex-service men were confined.

Then came the news that the next Prison Congress was to meet in Boston, and the Institution Library Committee was asked to get up an exhibit to show certain things which a prison library should stress, namely: Appropriate books, taking into consideration the fact that a very large proportion of our prison population, — 90 per cent, it is estimated, — have never gone beyond the 8th grade in school, and that a large proportion are sub-normal in mentality; the necessity for including in the budget a sum sufficient for purchasing such books; the strict censorship of gifts; the proper arrangement of books on shelves; and a simple charging system.

Among the posters displayed, two struck a key-note; one showed a man slinking in his cell, brooding, a prey to his own thoughts; the second, the same man, head up, alert, absorbed in a book. Two placards carried on the tale: "A man in prison has much time for thought. Why not give him something worth while to think about?", and "Have you asked your State Library Commission to assist you in organizing your library? Books are their job. They will be glad to help you."

As a result of the exhibit and the personal contacts made there with wardens and chaplains, enforced by a stirring appeal by Miss Askew, of the New Jersey Library Commission, for proper book selection and service, the A. L. A. Institution Library Committee is now at work on a list of from one hundred to two hundred books

which should be in every jail and prison. Evidently the prison library is to follow the hospital library to an assured and appreciated place in the institutions.

E. K. J.

COURSES IN THE LIBRARY.

The Library plans three courses for assistants during the coming year, as follows:

1. A Course in Work with Children, by Miss Alice M. Jordan, to consist of fifteen lessons given on alternate Thursdays at 9.15 a.m., beginning October 18.

2. An Advanced Course in Reference Work, under the supervision of Mr. Frank H. Chase. This course will also consist of fifteen lessons on alternate Thursdays at 9.15 a.m., beginning October 25.

3. A Course in Italian, to consist of at least forty lessons, to be arranged with the coöperation of the Division of University Extension of the Massachusetts Department of Education. This course is planned with a view to enable employees of the Library to increase their equipment for service, and at the same time to prepare themselves for passing language examinations required for Grades C and B.

The preliminary announcement of these courses stated that Course 3 would meet twice each week at 5 o'clock; as this hour seems to be inconvenient, an effort is being made to arrange a time of meeting which will enable a larger number of Library employees to take the course.

Professor Robert E. Rogers, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, has begun a third series of lectures in the Library, under the auspices of the Division of University Extension of the Massachusetts Department of Education. The subject of this year's course is "Modern Continental Writers"; the lectures are divided into three series of ten each, and are to be held in the Lecture Hall of the Central

Library at 9.30 o'clock on Friday mornings. The subjects of the lectures, with their dates, are as follows:

I. Great European Writers of the Nineteenth Century.

Introduction	October 5
Nietzsche	October 19
Dostoevski	October 26
Ibsen	November 2
Tolstoi	November 9
Balzac	November 16
Flaubert and De Maupassant	November 23
Zola	November 30
Turgenev	December 7
Tchekhov	December 14

II. Chief Literary Figures of the Past Generation.

Anatole France	January 4
Rostand	January 11
Maeterlinck	January 18
Brieux	January 25
Hauptmann	February 1
Sudermann	February 8
Strindberg	February 15
D'Annunzio	February 29
Andreev	March 7

III. Notable Living Continental Writers.

Gorki	March 21
Rolland	March 28
French Poets: Claudel, Jammes, Fort	April 4
Schnitzler	April 11
Molnar	April 18
Benavente	April 25
Pirandello	May 2
Blasco Ibáñez	May 9
Hamsun	May 16
Conclusion	May 23

Professor Rogers will repeat the course on "American Literature since 1870," given last spring, in eight lectures, beginning October 17. The course will be given in the Lecture Hall of the Library on consecutive Wednesday evenings at 7.30.

THE BENTON BEQUEST.

In September, Mayor Curley announced that a friendly suit would soon be instituted between the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston and the Rector of Trinity Church, in order to get a decision on the interpretation of certain clauses in the will of the late Josiah H. Benton. In the eleventh clause of the will, Mr. Benton established a fund of \$100,000, the income from which is to be given to the Trustees of the Library to buy

books for children. In the twelfth clause he gave the residue and remainder of his estate to the Trustees, one-half to be spent for "materials for scholarly research," and the other half to become a cumulative building fund. It is the money for children's books which is under dispute at the moment, for Mr. Benton qualified his gift by stating that this money was meant to be in addition to the sums which the City should spend on its library, and by directing that the income from the fund be given to the Library only in those years "when the City appropriates for the maintenance of the Boston Public Library at least three per cent of the amount available for department expenses from taxes and income in said City." In the years when this amount is not appropriated for the use of the Library the income is to go to the Rector of Trinity Church, "to be dispensed by him in relieving the necessities of the poor." Each year since Mr. Benton's death the income from the fund of \$100,000 has been paid to the Rector of Trinity.

The question to be decided is what constitutes the "amount available for department expenses from taxes and income in said City." It is the opinion of the Corporation Counsel that expenses for the schools, the police department, the finance commission, and the licensing board are not "department expenses" in the intent of the testator, since the control of these departments and the appropriations for some of them are not wholly vested in the City Government. On the other hand, it is the friendly contention of the Rector of Trinity Church that, since these departments are supported by money secured by taxation and income from the City, they should be included in estimating the three per cent of expenses.

CHILDREN'S BOOKS.

Miss Alice M. Jordan has a delightful article, entitled "Little Books of Long Ago," in the *Library Journal* for October 1. She marshals in review

many of the forgotten classics of our grandmothers' childhood, and draws interesting comparisons between them and the children's books of to-day. She sees progress, and expresses the belief that "more and more writers of ability consider that books for children may be worthy to become a part of general literature and, consequently, deserve their best efforts."

"Children's Book Week," now in its fifth year, will be celebrated November 11-17. The Library will make its usual displays of good books for younger readers, both at the Central Library and in some of the Branches.

A second edition of "Graded Lists of Books for Children's Reading, Grades III to VIII," has recently been completed by Miss Jordan. The list is thoroughly revised, and contains about 200 new titles, classified in each grade under such headings as "fairy tales and fables," "books about animals and outdoor life," "adventures," and "applied science." The list in its earlier edition, which was frequently reprinted, had a wide use, and will be exceedingly welcome in its enlarged form.

EXHIBITIONS.

"FIFTY BOOKS."

The American Institute of Graphic Arts has undertaken to stimulate interest in the improvement of book-making. To this end it proposes to organize each year an exhibit of fifty representative American and Canadian books of the year, to be displayed in all the larger cities of America. It is the hope of the Institute that both publishers and the reading public may by this means be educated in the art of book production, and that the standards of beauty and durability in the making of books may thus be gradually raised.

In September of the present year the "Fifty Books of 1923" were displayed in the Exhibition Room of the Boston Public Library. The exhibit was accompanied by an instructive catalogue prepared by the Institute. No one who saw these books could go away without learning something of what constitutes

good book-making, nor could he escape a feeling of pride at the high quality of many of the exhibits. *LIBRARY LIFE* is glad to know that these exhibitions are likely to visit the Boston Public Library annually.

BARTON LIBRARY.

An exhibition case has been placed in the Barton-Ticknor Room, in which it is planned to have rare books and manuscripts shown from time to time.

At present the works of St. Augustine are on exhibition, including the beautiful manuscript of "De civitate Dei" on vellum, with paintings, borders and initials, finished in 1466. There are also an early printed copy of the same work dated 1489, containing a large woodcut and several other items of importance and interest.

COLLEGE MEN.

The following young men employed on the Evening and Sunday force are attending college during the day:

Boston College:

John F. Cray.
Joseph W. Hopkinson.
Timothy F. Lyons.
Thomas Manning.
William E. Murphy.
Edward J. Scollins.

Boston University:

William O'Brien.
Merton H. Wheelock.

Harvard University:

Abraham Anapolsky.
Herbert S. Rosenblum.

Massachusetts Institute of Technology:

Arthur J. Buckley.
Samuel Sagermaster.

LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES.

Since the last issue of *LIBRARY LIFE*, the following members of the staff have left the Library service under the provisions of the Boston Retirement Act:

Emma G. Capewell, Librarian, Mat-tapan Branch, at her own request.

Catherine T. Donnelly, Bindery Department.

MR. JOHN P. MALONE.

LIBRARY LIFE, continuing its good-byes, offers this month the name of Mr.

John P. Malone, first assistant engineer in the Central Library.

Twenty-eight years in the Engineering Department, with the days that he has missed from work so few that they could be counted on the fingers of one hand; a bachelor, yet for many years contributing to the support of three families of young relatives; Mr. Malone has borne with vigor his share of the world's burdens.

There are just a few things that he has always enjoyed, he says. Not even a lifetime of hard work has ever crowded them out, and in the days of leisure which are in prospect, he thinks pleasantly of what these things will be to him. They are (the rest of the Library must take off its hat to the Engineering Department here) poetry, music and mathematics. Of course, he will say that he never got far in the last, only what he was able to do years ago in school. But he likes now to review his old arithmetic and to juggle with decimals. Poetry has always filled his heart and his head, too, one would think, to hear him quote verse after verse of John Boyle O'Reilly. For music to satisfy him at home, he has put in a radio.

Mr. Malone, we congratulate you. If the good wishes of LIBRARY LIFE can add anything to cheer you in this pleasant companionship, we give them most heartily. Truly, it may be said of you that you have chosen the better part.

THREE BRANCH VETERANS.

Here are some records from the Branches,—Mrs. Elizabeth T. Reed, librarian of the Dorchester Branch, fifty years; Miss Ellen A. Eaton, first assistant at South Boston Branch, forty-nine years; Miss Alice M. Wing, first assistant at East Boston Branch, fifty years in the service of the Library!

Good-bye, ladies! It renews our faith in library work to see you. Mrs. Reed, rosy and blue-eyed, tells of years spent in the Central Library, and of the Dorchester Branch, in a now much-changed neighborhood. She is of Canadian origin, but Boston-born, with

a great family connection scattered over the northwest. Hosts of nieces and nephews with their families claim her and bid fair to occupy the time which the duties of a Branch librarian have filled. But she still clings to the Library, means to keep up with the Staff Club and its meetings, and, bless her, wants to continue as a reader of LIBRARY LIFE. Mrs. Reed, our hearts are all yours.

Miss Eaton confesses to a feeling of joy in her freedom. The years at the South Boston Branch have left her a seemingly undiminished vigor. She has a sister, and they two, now that they have time, mean to enjoy life. The future is before them and it is a shining one. Miss Eaton, our best wishes go with you.

Miss Wing prefers that the record of her years should speak for her. Modesty forbids . . . Yet the testimony of those who have known her places her among the Library's most devoted workers.

All of the Branch librarians, we have it on good authority, over-stayed their allotted time and even refused their vacations, that the work of their respective branches might not suffer in their retirement.

MISS MAUDE M. MORSE.

And now we say good-bye to Miss Maude M. Morse, of the Branch Department, whose voice has for so long rung out a hearty good-morning in the Library corridors. Miss Morse is sorry to go. She says so. On her last day here she was on the verge of real tears. Over thirty-five years in the service of the Library, a charter member of the Benefit Association, Miss Morse began her work as first assistant at the South End Branch, worked as clerk in Bates Hall in the old building on Boylston Street, and afterwards as clerk in the Branch Department. Duties at home have made it expedient for Miss Morse to retire earlier than would ordinarily be the case, but she says, and we know that she means it, "I have always considered the entire Library staff among my best friends." Good luck to you from LIBRARY LIFE, Miss Morse.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Editor*

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR, *Managing Editor*

WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM

DOROTHY E. HARVEY

CHRISTINE HAYES

MARION A. MCCARTHY

HARRY W. MATHEWS

MARY E. PRIM

HARRIET SWIFT

Vol. III, No. 1.

October 15, 1923

NEW BROOMS.

Once again LIBRARY LIFE makes its bow, as another season opens. Once again, it feels fresh hopes for a new volume, and plans to be a better paper, as the result of the year's experience and the summer's meditation. To a share in its hopes and plans it invites its readers.

First, it will aim to be even more concise. It believes that the past year saw some progress in this direction, but the present year should see more. A paper exists for the purpose of being read; and LIBRARY LIFE will keep at it until it gets itself read by every member of the staff who is not blind or illiterate. To this end it is going to limit its size to eight pages — a policy in pursuance of which it appears this month with sixteen! In excuse for this unseemly bulk it can only say that so much has happened in the three months since the summer issue of July 15 that eight pages simply wouldn't hold the news.

Second, it plans to issue, as a consolation to the serious, an occasional supplement of four or eight pages, in which articles of more permanent interest, outside the field of current news, may be published.

Third, it has reorganized its staff, with the purpose of covering the field more systematically by means of a division of responsibility. Mr. Chase will continue to serve as editor, with Mr. Taylor as managing editor, with the duty of seeing the paper through

the press. Miss Hayes will have charge of reviews and exchanges, and of the provision of special features. Mr. Mathews will serve as news editor, and Miss Marion A. McCarthy, whose reports from the Staff Club were so interesting last year, editor for organizations. These five will be assisted by four reporters, each with a special field: Mr. Graham will collect items of personal interest; Miss Dorothy Harvey will round up the news of the Branches, which have never been adequately covered by the paper; Miss Swift will be responsible for news of an official character; and Miss Prim will be available for special assignments. With this set of fine new brooms, LIBRARY LIFE hopes to sweep the news into its pages more effectively than ever.

So much for the program. The editors bespeak the co-operation of every member of the Library staff in carrying it out. The paper exists for the service of all the citizens of our little world. It counts upon them to help it with both criticism and encouragement; and, above all, to see to it that LIBRARY LIFE gets "all the news that's fit to print."

On the afternoon of July 17 the first of a number of excursion parties from Scranton and Wilkes-Barre, Pennsylvania, made a visit to the Library. The pilgrims on this occasion numbered about 150, and were marshalled solemnly through the public rooms by the official conductors. It is interesting to realize that to persons in other parts of the country, a trip to Boston has the same meaning which a trip to Washington has for Bostonians.

HEAVEN HELPS THOSE . . .

During the past four years, the Library has been supplementing the opportunities freely opened by Simmons College and Boston University, by offering courses of instruction to its employees, as a means of helping

them to strengthen themselves for larger and finer service. Some of these courses have been given in the Library building by Simmons College; some by members of the Library staff; and some by the Division of University Extension.

In the aggregate, a considerable number of the staff have been enrolled in one or more of these courses, and everyone who has taken the work seriously, and has done his or her best to get out of it all that he could, has something to show for it. We grow by using our powers; and these courses have enabled us to use our powers in new directions.

Some members of the staff have felt disappointed that it was impossible to credit those who had passed a course with a certain definite number of points, to be added to their mark on a grade examination. They have failed to realize that the step from one grade to the next higher represents, quite aside from the examination, an advance in maturity and training equivalent to that registered during four years in school on full time; and that it would take at least twenty Library courses, each running through a full year, to make up this requirement. It is plain, then, that the function of these courses is to furnish the background for an examination, not to take its place in any way.

This year the courses are of specially practical value. Miss Jordan's course in Children's work is a definite preparation to meet a crying need of the Library; the same is true of the advanced course in reference work. The course in Italian is planned directly with a view to enabling those who take it to pass off a language requirement, and thus to advance toward a higher grade in the service. Prof. Rogers's course in Modern European Literature offers a rare opportunity to obtain knowledge of a great field, of deep importance to every Librarian, in regard to which most of us are pretty ignorant. There is not a person in the service too mature or too well-read to profit by this course; in fact, the more one has read, the more one will learn.

Except the Italian course, none of this work will lead directly to a better mark on examination; but every one of them will contribute to the efficiency of those who take them, and will make them worthier fellows of the library craft. And when one applies for promotion, this improved efficiency—this addition to education—will have its full weight in determining the value of one's equipment. We all want the best man—the best woman—to win; and in many a case, the help obtained from these courses will be a decisive factor in determining who is the best person to win a coveted place.

On August 21, Mrs. Mary Florence Blaisdell, wife of Mr. Frank C. Blaisdell, Chief of the Issue Department, died at her home at Allston after a long illness. Mrs. Blaisdell before her marriage was a member of the Catalogue Department of the Library.

The funeral service was held at the Church of the New Jerusalem, Newtonville. Mr. Goddard, an old friend of Mrs. Blaisdell's, officiated, and a large number of her Library acquaintances were present.

Mr. Blaisdell and his family can count on the affectionate sympathy of every member of the Library staff.

SUMMER IMPROVEMENTS.

New and powerful drop lights have been installed in the West Gallery, Special Libraries floor. Each light is equal in candle power to twelve of the old table lights, with the result that the Gallery is the best lighted spot in the entire building.

Extensive repairs have been made in the lavatories, and a ventilating system is soon to be placed in the Lecture Hall.

The old French chandelier, which was removed from the Trustees' Room some time ago and replaced by an indirect lighting equipment, has been refinished and returned to its original position, thus preserving the French atmosphere of the room.

Material is arriving for the work on the new stacks in the Annex.

TEAM WORK.

The pride of team-work sometimes brings agreement among friends who have an identical aim in view, but who differ as to methods of procedure. Legislative committees composed of representatives of opposite parties have been known to accomplish wonderful results, based on a common desire to produce a law that should be effective in its application.

In the case of the Benefit Association and its new constitution, there is every reason for optimism. The earnestness which is evident on all sides is an infallible sign of vitality. Any observer can see a general concern for the welfare of all the members, which means that the Association feels a lively sense of responsibility for the application of its funds to the purposes for which they were created. When in three days a memorial fund such as is noted on another page can be provided from among our members, there is no reason for discouragement regarding the spirit of the Library staff.

The next thing attempted is, or rather was, to produce a constitution that should be, as nearly as possible, perfect in its application. The members of the committee of revision had not the least handicap of dislike or distrust; they met as old and tried friends, their labors have cemented their friendship and they have now the added feeling of satisfaction in the approval which the Association has given to their work as a whole. Such differences of opinion as they may have had are lost in the desire to see the proposed amendments tried out in actual practice. A constitution is, after all, a work of reference, a statement in black and white which a majority adopt as a working basis for managing the affairs of an association. No one article will be approved by all the members, not all the articles will be approved by any one member, but a majority of the members will approve of the constitution as a whole. That result justifies all the time and effort expended by the committee and the Association.

The committee succeeded in agreeing. Now it is up to the Association. Now is the time for team-work. A fair trial is bespoken for the new instrument.

L. E. T.

"MANY MARRIAGES."

Miss Josephine Kenney, formerly Librarian of the North End Branch, was married in New York City in June, 1923, to Mr. John Pavis. Since leaving Boston Miss Kenney has organized the library of the High School in Jamaica, N. Y. The newly married couple are making their home on Staten Island, and Mrs. Pavis is continuing her work as high school librarian, a task for which her successful experience with young people gives her a fine equipment.

On Sunday evening, August 5, Miss Mary Daly, of the Fine Arts Department, was married to Mr. Arthur R. Maier, who was formerly employed in the Library. The ceremony took place in St. William's Church, Dorchester, and was performed by the Rev. Father Murphy. Miss Edith Daly, also of the Fine Arts Department, was the bridesmaid, and Mr. John Barry, formerly employed in the Librarian's Office, was the best man. After the ceremony, a reception was held at the home of the bride's parents.

On Saturday, July 28, Miss Daly was presented with a purse of gold and a beautiful bouquet of flowers. The presentation took place in the Women's Lunch Room of the Library, which was suitably decorated for the occasion.

Miss Helen M. Ripley, formerly assistant to the Supervisor of Branches, was married to Mr. Ernest Clough, of Portland, Maine, on Wednesday, August 15, in St. Ann's Church, Lowell, Mass. Miss Ripley is a graduate of Simmons College, in the class of 1920. Mr. Clough is a graduate of Brown University, and is now in the employ

of the National City Company, of Boston. Mr. and Mrs. Clough are making their home in Methuen, Mass.

On Sept. 4 Miss Heloise Kenney, formerly of the Bindery, and daughter of Mr. Wm. J. Kenney, who was for some years President of the Board of Trustees, was married to Mr. Lloyd Wright, of New York, in St. Patrick's Cathedral. The couple will be at home in Jackson Heights, New York City, after Oct. 15.

Joseph A. Crowley, Assistant in the Patent Room, and Miss Catherine Lilian Kennedy, formerly the Assistant Registrar, were married on September 19 at St. Peter's Church, Dorchester. Rev. John A. Coughlin officiated, and the attendants were the bride's sister, Miss Mary Kennedy, and Mr. Henry J. Fitzgerald of the School Department.

Following the ceremony a reception was held at the home of the bride's father. Music was furnished by Mrs. William Hickey and Officer Benjamin. A large party gathered to see the happy pair off on their honeymoon to Niagara Falls, Washington and New York. They are to make their home in Winthrop.

On Friday, September 28, Miss Josephine O'Sullivan, of the Bindery, left the service of the Library. She is to be married on October 10 to Lieut. Albert Kelley, at Saint Peter's Church, Dorchester. Previous to her departure, on the evening of Monday, September 17, Miss O'Sullivan was tendered a surprise party and shower at the home of Miss Arvedon, by the younger element among her associates. A shower was also given at the home of her husband's sister on a later date, at which many members of the Bindery staff were present. On Sept. 28 the entire personnel of the Bindery was present at a luncheon in honor of Miss O'Sullivan, at which she was presented with a bouquet of American Beauty roses and a purse of gold, as tokens of the good wishes of her fellow workers.

NEWS NOTES.

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

The Right Reverend Dr. Mann, Bishop of Pittsburgh, was a visitor to the Library on July 18. Dr. Mann is looking well, but it is suspected that he still has a slightly homesick feeling for Boston.

Charles W. Murphy, of the Engineer Department, has made application for retirement under the Spanish-American War Veterans' Retirement Act, on account of serious illness, and expects to be admitted to a state sanatorium. His friends in the Library have collected \$175 as a testimonial of their regard and esteem.

Mr. Murphy entered the Library service on September 6, 1904, and in 1915 was married to Miss Gertrude M. Conree, of the Issue Department, who is now, we regret to learn, also in ill health. *LIBRARY LIFE* speaks for the entire staff of the Library in expressing deep sympathy for these friends in their trouble.

The Library had several representatives at the Citizens' Military Training Camp at Devens during the month of August. William Graham was back for his second year of training, and the others were Merton Wheelock, Edward Murray, and Theodore Flemming. Every one of them was chosen for a position on the camp paper, "The Half-Step," either as editor or as reporter.

A story entitled "Lee takes stock of love," by Miss Prim, of *LIBRARY LIFE* and the Open-Shelf Room, was published in *McClure's Magazine* for August. An interesting sketch of Miss Prim's career as a writer appears in *The Writer* for October.

Two hundred and fifty tickets were finally sold to those members of the Library staff whose interest in the proposed memorial to their fellows who fought in the World War amounted to

fifty cents — that is, about one ticket for every two employees of the Library. The prizes have been awarded as follows:

1. Painting, The Head of a Hound, to Miss Veronica Hession, Parker Hill Branch.
2. \$5 Gold Piece, to Miss Florence B. Darling, Faneuil Branch.
3. Fountain Pen, to Mrs. Bridget Healey, Central Library.

Mr. James P. Mooers, of the Bindery, was recently elected Secretary of the American War Veterans' Association of City and County Employees. All World War veterans now in the Library service are members of this association.

Dr. Joseph P. Yaffé, who was formerly a member of the Sunday and evening staff of the Library, has opened an office at 32 Chambers Street, Boston.

Miss Clara Jones, after an absence of some years, has returned to the Central Library, and is at present in charge of the stacks. Miss Jones has had experience in several of the branches, in addition to her former work at Central.

The periodical case in the Fine Arts Department has been supplied with new covers for the magazines, each cover bearing the name of the periodical clipped from a discarded issue. The titles present a great variety of color and type, and give to the fifty-eight publications the appearance of a veritable flower garden. The idea belongs to Miss Mulcahey, of the Fine Arts Division.

The *Studio* [London] is back in its old place among the art magazines.

A photostat enlargement of the title-page, delivered on the afternoon of the order, proved to be the most practical poster for advertising the Brief Reading List "Health and Hygiene,"

prepared for the exhibit of the American Public Health Association at the Boston Health Show, held Oct. 6-13, in Mechanics Building.

An account of the Library occupies five pages of John Koren's history, "Boston, 1882-1922," which was published as City Document No. 39, 1922, in celebration of the centenary of the Charter. Five full-page plates accompanying the article.

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

ANDREW SQUARE: Aladdin certainly must have rubbed his lamp at Andrew Square. The landlady has had the walls repainted and the book shelves revarnished. The Librarian has made for herself a rest-room, so that she and her assistant will no longer have to eat luncheon on the somewhat soiled surface of a library table.

BOYLSTON: A successful vacation reading club was conducted at Boylston Station by Miss Nickerson. A list of 200 popular boys' and girls' books was posted in a conspicuous place, and was consulted throughout the summer by boys and girls who wished to compete for "diplomas" offered by the Librarian to those who read a certain number of books and wrote satisfactory reviews of what they had read. Twelve of the readers received diplomas.

BRIGHTON: Miss Marion W. Brackett, who has been on a six months' leave of absence, returned to her desk at Brighton Branch the last week in August. She found everything in perfect shape. Great credit is due to the members of the staff at that Branch who carried on with such good spirit and efficiency.

CHARLESTOWN: Just before the beginning of the Branch evening hours the staff of the Charlestown Branch gave Miss Dorothy McLaughlin, who was recently transferred to Roslindale, a dinner and theatre party.

Reference question from an 8th-grade pupil: "Is clam digging a mineral or a farming product?"

CITY POINT: Miss Murphy, Librarian at City Point, was pleased to receive a call from Mr. Kneeland, the Superintendent of Buildings, and to learn from him that he plans to have the walls of the Branch painted in the near future. This is the best news City Point has had for a number of years.

EAST BOSTON: The biggest piece of news about East Boston is that for the first time in nearly a year the Librarian has a full staff at work. In spite of the fact that she has been from two to three people short for many months, the circulation has not dropped.

FANEUIL: Miss Connell has been rejoicing all summer in the fact that she has a fine new privet hedge to protect her lawn. It may at last really be called a lawn, now that the rich growth of plantain which destroyed its beauty has been removed.

JEFFRIES POINT: In regard to Jeffries Point it is fitting that we announce the resignation of a perfect janitor, Mr. Massey Pilato. We are glad to say that he did not resign because he disliked the work, but because he was moving to another city.

LOWER MILLS: The increase in circulation at Lower Mills deserves to be called phenomenal. The months of August and September of this year, as compared with the corresponding period in 1922, show a gain of 2118. The entire circulation last year was only 17,577 — smaller by 3,000 than that of any other branch in the system. Another month at this rate will wipe out the deficit.

MATTAPAN: The Mattapan Branch has been completely repainted. The lighting system has been changed from gas to electricity and the furniture has been re-arranged, so that the Branch now has a bright and attractive appearance.

MT. PLEASANT: Frank Sergi, an art student resident in the Mt. Pleasant

district, has painted for the library some attractive posters, advertising popular children's books.

NEPONSET: Neponset is one of the most attractive of the smaller Branches. One reason why it always presents such a cheery appearance is because the large show windows in front, and the smaller windows at the back of the room, are always bright and shining. How the Librarian manages to achieve this result without continually asking for more money to be spent on window-cleaning is a pleasant mystery.

NORTH END: North End is certainly a cosmopolitan place. The following nationalities are now represented among the members of its staff — all, by the way, good American citizens: American, Irish, Italian, Polish, Russian, and Syrian.

ORIENT HEIGHTS: Miss Catherine E. Flannery, Librarian at Orient Heights, was on her way back from Liverpool, on the S.S. Scythia, when the boat came into collision with the S.S. Cedric. The Scythia had to put back to Liverpool. It is expected that the passengers on the Scythia may have to return on the Corona, which was expected to leave Liverpool October 6.

ROSLINDALE: The public at Roslindale has welcomed to the head of the Branch one of the residents of its own district, Miss Annie M. Donovan, former First Assistant at Charlestown. With the approval of the Supervisor of work with Children, the children have been given a corner of their own in this library. An attractive and satisfactory rest-room for the staff has been achieved. As the lack of such a rest-room has been a chief source of complaint at the Branch ever since it was established, this is a most welcome improvement.

ROXBURY CROSSING: Much has been said and written about the transformation of the "Nuf Ced" McGreavy's saloon into an attractive reading room. Miss Sather, Librarian of the Branch,

reports that the room is already much used by grown people living in the district. As a matter of fact, where formerly people took books home to read, they now stay to read in the Library. The new and attractive quarters have actually served to decrease rather than to increase the home use of books.

SOUTH BOSTON: At South Boston a lighted sign is in preparation, which will serve to advertise the Branch even to people passing in the electric cars.

SOUTH END: The new and attractive quarters occupied by the South End Branch have been appreciated to the full by the residents of that district, a fact to which the increase in circulation figures for the past four months gives eloquent testimony.

TYLER STREET: Miss Scoff, the energetic young Librarian at Tyler Street, does not stop studying, even if she has become the head of a Branch. While giving full time and the necessary strength to her Library work, she still manages to take several courses at Boston University.

WEST END: The West End Branch is once again one of the show places of the system. The Librarian has succeeded not only in having the place thoroughly cleaned up, but with the co-operation of the janitor, in keeping it clean. The books are in admirable order upon the shelves, and many new arrangements for the convenience of the public have been worked out.

WEST ROXBURY: A year ago we thought the West Roxbury building was about the nicest thing that had happened for many years. The only lack was an appropriate setting. This has been provided by the unceasing labors of Mr. Schwartz of that Branch, who is evidently a born gardener. His lawns and flower beds have been unsurpassed. As for the interior of the building, the Librarian and her staff understand perfectly how to give a homelike and attractive atmosphere to the Library, which is warmly appreciated by a large and enthusiastic clientele.

FICTION OR NON-FICTION.

The librarian of one of our larger suburban public libraries has collected statistics which show that, while fiction constitutes from 25 to 40 per cent of the accessions of the libraries of Greater Boston, this fiction provides from 65 to 70 per cent of the total circulation. It will be recalled that the figures given in Mr. Belden's last annual report show that 68 per cent of the Branch circulation is made up of fiction, but that in the Central Library the proportion is only 48 per cent.

EXAMINATIONS.

Three examinations were held in the Library during September, for various classes of employees. The first of these, which occurred on Saturday, September 15, was taken by 143 candidates for employment as "extra" assistants in the Central Library and its branches. It was limited to those who have successfully completed at least one year in high school, and are continuing their studies.

The other two examinations were held on Saturday, September 22. The first, for the position of branch librarian, was taken by three persons; the second, a qualifying examination for Grade C, was taken by 84 candidates of high-school education. The second part of this examination, consisting of a single language, was given in the afternoon, and was taken by 54 persons.

LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

The vacation season has come and gone. **LIBRARY LIFE** succumbed to the prevailing habit to the extent of omitting a few issues, but meanwhile other library publications have maintained a reasonable degree of activity.

The Ten-book List has not missed a week, and is now approaching its one-hundredth issue, its subjects ranging from Crime and Criminals to Yachting, and from Old-fashioned Songs to Aircraft.

To the series of Brief Reading Lists we have added the "Project Method in Education," compiled by Miss Alice M. Jordan, and reprinted in this form from the *Quarterly Bulletin* for April-June, 1923. Also, in recognition of the Health Show held in our city this month, a list has been compiled by Mr. Lucien E. Taylor, and entitled "Health and Hygiene." Hygiene is an ever-familiar subject, but some to whom "project method" still seems a somewhat mysterious phrase may be surprised, like ourselves, to see what a considerable literature has already grown up about it; the Boston Public Library is able to offer about two hundred books of interest in studying this new method. Or perhaps it is not new. We seem to hear Mr. Squeers saying, "We go upon the practical method of teaching, Nickleby; the regular education system. C-l-e-a-n, clean, verb active, to make bright, to scour. W-i-n, win, d-e-r, der, winder, a casement. When the boy knows this out of book, he goes and does it." We trust our list may help people to learn how much Mr. Squeers has been improved upon.

The editorial section of the current *Quarterly Bulletin* concerns itself mainly with matters relating to Shakespeare, in recognition of the tercentenary of the First Folio. The Gilbert Collection, composed almost entirely of dramatic material, assembled by a man of some repute as a Shakespearean actor, takes its place in the series of articles on the Special Libraries. The report of Horace Howard Furness on the Barton Collection, made in 1882, is reprinted, with notes on the growth of that collection as well as on the gaps which are yet to be filled. Views of the exterior and interior of the Globe theatre — Shakespeare's theatre — are reproduced, with a descriptive comment by Miss Mary A. Tenney, who also compiled the book list on "The England of Shakespeare." A print showing the old London Bridge of 1600, and another depicting part of the funeral procession of Queen Elizabeth complete this section of the publication.

In accordance with a long-standing custom, the fall issue of the *Bulletin* devotes much space to the series of free lectures and courses of public instruction sponsored by various Boston institutions.

M. A. T.

TEN-BOOK LISTS.

"The world is so full of a number of things" that there is no dearth of topics for Ten-book Lists. The titles, with the compilers' names, of the lists printed since the appearance of LIBRARY LIFE in July, are as follows:

Photography, by Frank R. Fraprie, F.R.P.S., editor of *American Photography*; Animals and their ways, by John Murdoch; Yachting, by Pierce E. Buckley; Lives of the Presidents, Boston Harbor, Recent books of travel, by L. E. Taylor; Old-fashioned songs, Recent musical biography and reminiscences, by Richard G. Appel; Aircraft, by George S. Maynard; Japan, by Alice M. Jordan; Recent books on the Constitution of the United States, by Horace L. Wheeler; Recent biographies, by Mary A. Tenney.

For the 53d Annual Congress of the American Prison Association, Sept. 13-20, a double list was prepared: General works, by Sanford Bates, Commissioner, Massachusetts Department of Correction; Special topics, by Mrs. Jessie D. Hodder, Superintendent, Massachusetts Reformatory for Women.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The first meeting of the Special Libraries Association for the year 1923-24 was held on Monday evening, September 24, at Young's Hotel. Members of the association, to the number of seventy-five, were guests at a bountiful buffet supper, provided through the hospitality of the *Boston Globe*. After supper the assembled librarians joined in a merry game of Fox and Geese under Mrs. Hartzell's supervision, and at 7.45 settled down to serious business. The subject of the evening's session

was "Newspapers and Newspaper Libraries." Mr. William Alcott, Librarian of the *Boston Globe*, read a most interesting paper describing in detail the efficient organization of the excellent reference library and the great files of clippings and photographs maintained in the *Globe* office. Mr. W. Frederic Berry, Librarian of the *Christian Science Monitor*, gave a detailed account of the card index to the *Monitor*, which was begun in the second year of that paper's history. Mr. Amos Weston, also of the *Monitor* staff, spoke on the preservation of newspapers, and told of the various methods proposed for lengthening the life of wood-pulp paper, which, under ordinary circumstances, disintegrates in the course of about twenty years. The New York Public Library is now preserving three newspapers, among them the *Monitor*, by pasting transparent Japanese tissue on both sides of each sheet. Mr. Weston gave a hopeful report on the result of experiments with chemical preservatives. The last speaker of the evening was Mr. Chase of the Boston Public Library, who gave a comprehensive account of newspaper collections in the libraries of Boston and its vicinity.

At the close of the meeting the members repaired to the office of the *Boston Globe*, where they spent an interesting hour in examining the files contained in the library and in a tour of the plant, in which the process of getting out the paper of the next morning was in full swing.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The regular October meeting of the Employees' Benefit Association was held in the Staff Lecture Room on Tuesday, October 2, 1923. The only business of importance was the acceptance of the minutes of the preceding meeting, at which final action was taken on the revised constitution. After a good deal of discussion, it was voted to accept the minutes, and the meeting adjourned until the second Tuesday in January.

THE SICK LIST.

The Relief Committee reports the illness during the summer of the following members of the Benefit Association, who have since returned to their posts: Miss Eleanor Schlafer, Issue Department; Miss Katherine Gorham, Shelf Department; Mr. William Hickey, Engineers' and Janitors' Department; Miss Harriet Mulloy, Ordering Department. Miss Margaret Rooney, of the Brighton Branch, and Miss Helen Cushing, of the Ordering Department, are still absent.

Our sympathy goes out to two of our members, who are at present in the hospital: Miss Therese Masterson, of the Bindery, and Miss Fanny Goldstein, Librarian of the West End Branch, who returned to her post only a few months ago after a serious operation, and who is now again under a physician's care.

STAFF CLUB.

The Executive Committee of the Staff Club met at luncheon at the Women's City Club on Friday, September 28, to make plans for the year 1923-24. The full committee was present. Elated by the successful progress of the Club last year, the Committee was brimming with enthusiasm and full of attractive ideas for the coming season. Many novel features were planned in connection with the various monthly meetings.

All members should read the following program carefully, and keep these dates clear for the Staff Club:

Friday evening, Oct. 26—Halloween Party.
Wednesday evening, Nov. 21—Shakespeare Celebration: Costume Party and Dramatics.

Thursday evening, Dec. 27—Christmas Festival.

Tuesday evening, Jan. 29—Kodaks as we went: Staff Travels.

Friday evening, Feb. 29—Leap Year Party.
Thursday evening, Mar. 27—An Evening with Books.

Wednesday evening, Apr. 23—"Now it can be told": an Evening of Confessions.

Tuesday evening, May 27—Garden Party at Nottingham Hill: Annual meeting.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume III, No. 2

November 15, 1923

CONTENTS.

POPULAR SPEAKERS FOR LIBRARY LECTURES	17	EDITORIALS	20
"AN EDUCATED MAN"	17	EXHIBITIONS	21
CATALOGUERS ORGANIZE	18	NEWS NOTES	21
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION	18	FRANCES GODDARD	23
LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES	18	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	24
		STAFF CLUB	24

POPULAR SPEAKERS FOR LIBRARY LECTURES.

The Library Courses of Free Public Lectures, which opened their twenty-sixth season on Thursday, October 11, offer an interesting group of subjects presented by able speakers. There are to be twenty-eight lectures on Sunday afternoons, of which the last, on Easter Sunday, April 20, closes the season, and twenty-seven on Thursday evenings. All the lectures of the Thursday evening series, with the exception of the opening one, on Famous Mothers of History, and the Christmas reading on December 27, will be illustrated by lantern slides, as will eleven of the Sunday afternoon series. Seven lectures will have musical illustrations. Of the entire fifty-five lectures, six, arranged by the Boston Conservation Bureau, will be accompanied by motion pictures; six will be given under the auspices of the Drama League, and five, on outdoor subjects, will be supplied by the Field and Forest Club. Among the lecturers may be mentioned His Honor, Mayor Curley, Hon. Michael J. Murray of the Board of Trustees, Mr. Horace G. Wadlin, Mr. LeRoy Jeffers, of the New York Public Library, and the Reverend William N. Stinson, S.J., Librarian of Boston College, who will give two lectures.

The courses arranged by the Library will be supplemented, as usual, by

the sixteen lectures given before the Boston Ruskin Club on Monday afternoons at 3 o'clock. Among the speakers announced for February 8, the 105th Anniversary of the birth of John Ruskin, are Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arthur T. Connolly, President of the Board of Trustees, and Mr. Belden.

The New England Poetry Club will present a series of six "Free Talks" in the Lecture Hall on the second Wednesdays of successive months, at 4.30 p.m., with the general topic, "Some Influences in Modern American Poetry." Among the speakers are Miss Abbie Farwell Brown, Prof. Norreys J. O'Connor, and Miss Amy Lowell.

"AN EDUCATED MAN."

To a symposium on the question "What is an educated man?" in the *Boston Sunday Globe* for October 21, Mr. Belden contributed the following definition:

"While it may be difficult to write a brief, comprehensive definition of an educated man, it is not difficult to note certain essential attributes.

"A man of well-rounded education has a mind trained by wide reading, wide companionship, and wide experience to deal justly, wisely, and sympathetically with the daily problems of life; he has absorbed the intellectual and spiritual inheritance that has come down through the ages; he has the

manners of a gentleman; and, of vital importance he has not lost the power of growth."

Registration in Professor Rogers's course on Continental Literature is made up as follows: Employees of the Boston Public Library, 34; employees of other libraries, 28; others, 69.

CATALOGUERS ORGANIZE.

The organization of the "Boston Group of Catalogers and Classifiers" is now an accomplished fact. On Tuesday, November 13, 105 workers in this field, representing thirty-nine libraries, met at dinner in the Harvard College Library. Most of the guests, of course, came from the Greater Boston area, but representatives were also present from Yale, Brown University, and the Free Public Library of Worcester. After dinner, the Chairman, Miss Harriet E. Howe of Simmons College, introduced Mr. William Coolidge Lane, Librarian of the Harvard College Library, who made a short speech of welcome.

The report of the organization committee, was read and adopted. The meeting was then turned over to Mr. T. Franklin Currier, Assistant Librarian of the Harvard College Library, who spoke of the aims and methods employed in the Harvard catalogues, emphasizing the special problems involved in handling large collections of books, the fact that the subject side of the Harvard catalogue is selective rather than inclusive, the freedom from technical red tape, and the points where the catalogue is open to criticism, as well as those in which a difficult situation has been successfully met in an unusual manner.

Miss Tucker spoke briefly on methods employed in filing at Harvard. A nominating committee was elected, consisting of Miss Abbot, of the Brookline Public Library, Miss Trull, of the Library of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, and Mr. Taylor, of the Boston Public Library. The visitors then adjourned to the

Delivery Room and Catalogue Department of the main Library, and to the Library of the Graduate School of Business Administration, where, by personal inspection of catalogues in company with members of the Library staff, more intimate details of professional and technical interest could be discussed and illustrated. C. P. B.

At the first fall meeting of the Board of Trustees, on October 26, the office of Director of the Library was created, and the Librarian was appointed to the new position. Mr. F. H. Chase, Custodian of Bates Hall, was appointed Reference Librarian, with charge of "all matters pertaining to the use of books and such other executive work as may be entrusted to him by the Director." Miss Della Jean Deery, Clerk of the Corporation, was made Executive Secretary to the Director.

As a result of this action of the Board of Trustees, the positions of Librarian and Assistant Librarian no longer exist. The new organization is in line with that of the New York Public Library.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The Printing Art was the topic of the meeting of the Special Libraries Association on October 29, which was held at the editorial rooms of the Atlantic Monthly Press. Of the sixty or more members present about one-half had eaten supper together informally at Miss Ava's Lunch Room.

At the business meeting, ten new members were elected, it was voted to omit the meeting of December, 1923, and provision was made for the publication of a list of the officers and members of the Association.

Mr. Sidney A. Kimber, of the University Press, Cambridge — the oldest press in America — spoke on The Selection of Paper for Books, and alluded, in passing, to a collection of 150 volumes contributed to the Press

by contemporary American printers, as representing the donors' ideals of bookmaking. The five or six varieties of paper, the speaker said, which were available for books in the Middle Ages, have become five or six hundred today. The total raw material now used in the paper industry may be divided as follows:

Wood pulp . . .	61 per cent.
Waste paper . . .	21 per cent.
Rags . . .	8 per cent.
Straw . . .	7 per cent.
Manila . . .	3 per cent.

Of the 8 per cent of rags, a large part is diverted to the manufacture of commercial stationery, leaving very little for books.

Mr. Kimber gave many interesting details concerning the composition, surface and durability of paper and its make-up into books, and closed with a reference to "Stephen Daye and his Successors," a sketch of the first printing plant in what was formerly British North America, which was published by the University Press in 1921. The speaker very kindly offered to send a copy of this book to any member of the Association who cares to apply and who really appreciates fine book-making.

Mr. Charles Swain Thomas, Editor of the Educational Department of the Atlantic Monthly Press, who was the host of the evening, spoke "From the publisher's viewpoint." He told of the timely foresight necessary in planning for the production of works within the Company's scope, of the sifting of the 150 manuscripts received daily for the *Monthly*, and of the progress of a successful manuscript from selection at Boston to printing at Concord, N. H. He gave an analysis of the expense of publishing a book, under such headings as plates, paper, printing, royalties, overhead, advertising and selling, so as to illustrate the small profit on first editions and the larger profits from later editions. Proof-reading, he said, is important not merely for insuring that copy has been followed, but also for securing correctness in matters of background, statements of fact, and quotations.

A half-hour in the "Book Room" of the Press added just the required touch to the evening's inspiration. The rows of fresh new books and the "spick and span" magazine issues seemed to be the fit expression of a desire for the best in the printing art.

Among recent visitors to the Library was the eminent English art critic, Capt. R. Langton Douglas, who is author of a well-known History of Siena and editor of the last edition of Crowe and Cavalcaselle's great "History of Painting in Italy."

LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES.

LIBRARY LIFE says good-bye this month to Miss Mary P. Swain, formerly librarian of the Jamaica Plain Branch.

Miss Swain has sensed retirement long enough to be able to tell how it feels. "I miss the Library" are her first words, after several months of release from the duties of a branch librarian. For Miss Swain's is a spirit that has not sought to be "laid off." Forty-six years on the job have apparently fostered in her the desire to keep on — working. A pension? "Charity," she says. She can think of it in no other way. She accepts it as a matter of course, because others do, but why should she not work for her money now as she always has done? She is able to. And, looking at her, one cannot but agree with her.

Two afternoons a week she spends at the local branch in Charlestown, where she now makes her home. Then there is the Jamaica Plain Branch to return to for occasional visits. There are all the books she has been meaning to read these many years and has never had time for (this, she admits, is one of the compensations of retirement) and she says that when the Staff Club gets under way, we may look for her of an evening at Central. *Au revoir*, Miss Swain!

C. H.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Associate Editors.

MARION A. MCCARTHY
WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY

HARRY W. MATHEWS
MARY E. PRIM
HARRIET SWIFT

Vol. III, No. 2. November 15, 1923

The editors are fully aware that the date above has little relation to the actual date of appearance of this issue of LIBRARY LIFE. It has seemed desirable to maintain the regular sequence of dates, even though, as in the present instance, unavoidable delay may occur in the course of publication.

THE DIRECTOR.

"What's in a name?" The question was originally asked in impatience, but the suggestion contained in a new title has, we all know, again and again led to an enlarged vision and wider service.

For more than seventy years the responsible head of the Boston Public Library was called the Librarian, though for a considerable period there was in addition a "chief executive officer," ranking above the Librarian, and called Superintendent; this position was filled in succession by those eminent bibliographers, Charles C. Jewett and Justin Winsor. This fall the Library passes into a new phase of its history with the creation of the position of Director, to which Mr. Belden has been appointed. The time-honored title disappears, and Boston follows the lead of the New York Public Library, the country's greatest municipal collection of books. It is probably fitting that our library, second in size and senior in age,

should thus range itself beside the New York institution.

The new organization suggests for the Director a widened field of action and lays emphasis on the executive aspect of his position. It implies that policies rather than details are his province. It is consonant with Mr. Belden's leadership in the library world, and serves to indicate his function as pilot of the institution which he heads, in this period when the Library is entering upon the uncharted region which lies beyond the age of threescore years and ten. LIBRARY LIFE rejoices in the new dignity suggested by the new title.

OUR ASSOCIATION.

The Employees' Benefit Association has a new Constitution. How many of us know what it really means—to us? The Constitution is now in the hands of the printer, and will soon be distributed among the members. Every one ought to read it through. There is something in it that each of us ought to know.

One provision of the Constitution which should prove of special value is that which instructs the Board of Directors to appoint in each department and branch a representative of the Association whose duty it shall be to give the Secretary immediate notice when any of his fellow workers is ill, or when there is a change in the personnel of the department. This provision will, it is hoped, put an end to the regrettable cases in which a member has failed to receive the benefit to which he is entitled, on account of neglect or irregularity in giving notice of his illness.

The Association belongs to us all; we all help to support it; we all share in its benefits; we are all bound by the rules which we have ourselves adopted. Every member of the staff who wants to "play the game"—and we all do—should join the Association and should accept the enforcement of its rules, even when they bear hard upon him. If we play the game properly, if we take pains to learn the rules

and abide by them, we shall never be galled by their pressure.

A few members who have dropped out of the Association through non-payment of dues have failed to renew their membership. The Association does not seem important to them; but when sickness comes one feels differently — one realizes then how much we receive for how little payment.

Every new employee, every lapsed member, should look into the new Constitution and see what the Association does for its members. He will learn also the chances which we all have to help our fellow employees through mutual service. The spirit of the Association is that of general good will; its membership ought to include the whole staff of the Library. The new Constitution places an age limit on membership. The advice of *LIBRARY LIFE* to every member of the staff is, "Better be safe than sorry. Come in while the door is open."

EXHIBITIONS.

During the month of August the Library displayed in the Exhibition Room a selection from its large collection of pictures of old New England, a subject always welcomed by visitors from distant parts of the country. In September and October a memorial exhibition was held in honor of the centenary of the birth of Francis Parkman. More recently, the Fine Arts Department has been showing reproductions, in full color, of the spirited mural decorations by Miss Violet Oakley in the Pennsylvania State Capitol at Harrisburg — perhaps the most important mural paintings ever produced by a woman artist. In connection with this, and held over during the Shakespeare exhibit, is an attractive display of photographs and sketch-plans of fine gardens.

In the Barton Room the exhibition case has held a representative selection of fine and artistic bookbindings, both original and reproductions.

In the Children's Room a collection of Japanese dolls is on view. These are loaned by the Children's Museum, Ja-

maica Plain, and include the Emperor and Empress, army officers, an army orderly, and several other characteristic figures, all in quaint and striking costumes.

An exhibit of material illustrating the history of the First Folio Edition of Shakespeare's works, which was entered for publication on November 8, 1623, has been arranged in the Exhibition Room of the Fine Arts Department. Copies of the more significant editions of Shakespeare's plays are displayed, together with numerous full-size facsimiles of the First Folio, which give an opportunity to present a number of the more interesting pages of this, "the most important book in the history of English literature." The exhibition includes portraits of Shakespeare, restorations of the Globe Theatre, and other instructive material; such an exhibit is useful in helping us of the Library to realize the value and meaning of the treasures committed to our charge.

At the close of the September exhibit of "Fifty Books of 1923," the books were placed on the table in the Trustees' Room, where the members of the Society of Printers could examine them more freely. A dinner was given at the Art Club, to which Mr. Belden and Mr. Rowlands were invited, and later Mr. Henry L. Johnson spoke about finely printed books. It is hoped that the Library may acquire, by gift or by purchase, a complete set of the beautiful books shown.

NEWS NOTES.

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

The wedding of Miss Alice M. Barry, of the Registration Department, to Mr. William A. McGowan, of the Shelf Department, took place on the evening of October 10 at St. Margaret's Church, Dorchester. The bride's sister, Miss Helen Barry, was bridesmaid, and Mr. Harry McGowan attended his brother as best man. There were about one hundred guests, including some twenty of the happy couple's fellow-workers

in the Library. Mr. and Mrs. McGowan's honeymoon trip included Atlantic City and Saratoga; on their return they took up their residence at No. 667 Adams Street, Dorchester.

An excellent portrait of Miss Gladys E. Locke, of the Catalogue Department, was published in the *Boston Herald* for October 20, in connection with a review of her recent novel, "The Scarlet Macaw."

Miss Josephine O'Sullivan, of the Bindery Department, was married to Lieut. Alfred Kelley on Wednesday evening, October 10, in St. Peter's Church, Meeting House Hill, Dorchester. Rev. Edward Kenney was the officiating clergyman. The couple were attended by Miss Grace Kelley, sister of the groom, as bridesmaid, and Mr. Alexander O'Sullivan, brother of the bride, as best man. A reception at the Westminster Hotel, with music by the well-known Roof Garden Orchestra, followed the ceremony.

During August and September there were published in the magazine section of the *Boston Sunday Post* three stories by Miss Mary E. Prim, entitled "Youth Serves Itself," "Quite Contrary," and "Paper Cuffs."

On Sunday afternoon, November 4, Mr. Chase spoke at the Museum of Fine Arts on "The Significance of Greek Vases."

Since the last issue of *LIBRARY LIFE*, Miss Jordan has been in much demand for addresses on library subjects. On October 16 she spoke before the Community Club of Roslindale on "The Library's Service to Children"; on October 30 she addressed the literature division of the Women's Club of Danvers on "Recent books for children"; on November 7 she spoke to the Mothers' Association in Taunton on "Children's books, old and new"; and on

November 14 she told the Dorchester Union Maternal Association about "Books for Children."

A sheet of "Regulations for student use of the West Gallery" has just been issued. This should prove a valuable aid to the staff of the Fine Arts Department in their work with the busy student population of the Gallery.

Dr. Constantine E. McGuire, who edited the "Catholic Builders of America," recently published in four volumes by the Continental Press of Boston, is a former member of the Library staff. "Connie" graduated from Harvard in the class of 1911, and received from his university the degree of A.M. in 1912 and that of Ph.D. in 1915. During the interval between those two dates he spent a considerable time in European study. Since 1915, he has been Assistant Secretary of the United States Section of the Inter-American High Commission, the international technical body made up of the ministers of finance of the various American republics.

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

ALLSTON: The quarters at Allston Branch may be restricted, but the use of them by the public is not. To have a circulation averaging 5000 books a month in a space forty-five feet by twenty feet is a distinct achievement. The fact that the librarian appears to know her patrons individually and to sense instinctively what each one wants is a partial explanation of this satisfactory state of affairs.

CODMAN SQUARE: For five years the librarian at Codman Square has patiently and pleasantly asked for a counter to take the place of the present miscellaneous collection of desks, tables, trucks and boxes. She now has the definite promise that the work upon this counter will be started as soon as the new stacks in Central are finished.

DORCHESTER: Both the children's

and adults' book collections have been thoroughly overhauled. Books much in need of repair have been attended to through Miss McCarthy's office, and books out of date have been discarded. Many new titles have been added, and the collection is now in excellent condition.

HYDE PARK: The Reference Room at Hyde Park has been repainted. It is now one of the most attractive rooms to be found anywhere in the branch system.

MT. BOWDOIN: The Mt. Bowdoin Branch Library rooms have been thoroughly cleaned and repainted. The rearrangement of the room, effected about a year ago, has resulted in making it possible to have good order in a place crowded to the doors with men, women and children.

PARKER HILL: Miss Veronica Hession of Parker Hill has been carrying on successfully as Acting Librarian during the protracted absence of her chief, Miss Mary Sullivan, who is recovering from the effects of an operation.

ROXBURY: Miss Mary E. Ames has been cordially welcomed as librarian of the Roxbury Branch, by a public who already know her well. Miss Ames, a graduate of Wellesley, taught for twelve years before she became librarian at the Norfolk House Center Library of the Fellowes Athenæum in 1917. The name "Roxbury Branch" has been changed to "Fellowes Athenæum Branch of the Boston Public Library."

UPHAM'S CORNER: The announcement is made of the engagement of Miss Mary F. Kelley, librarian of the Upham's Corner Branch, to Mr. Joseph Henry O'Regan. Miss Kelley is the third librarian of this branch to forsake the profession of librarianship for that of housekeeping. On Saturday evening, November 3, her fellow-workers were present at a merry party in Miss Kelley's honor, at which a gift of silver was presented to the bride-to-be.

WARREN STREET: Miss Maguire, librarian at Warren Street, is rejoicing in the fact that within two years she will move into modern quarters in the

new Roxbury High School at Warren, Townsend and Harrishof Streets. The library room will, it is said, be the last word in effective planning and satisfactory furnishing. Miss Maguire has been unconsciously getting ready for this transfer for several years. When she makes the move, her book collection will be found adequate to meet the needs of the new library.

"AT MELROSE, NOVEMBER 3,
FRANCES GODDARD."

This brief announcement in the papers of November 5, not unexpected by Mrs. Goddard's friends, told them that the long illness, which manifested itself soon after her return from England last December, was ended.

Born in Boston, seventy years ago, a schoolmate and lifelong friend of Mrs. Kate Gannett Wells, Mrs. Goddard, after her marriage to Doctor Thatcher Goddard, lived chiefly in Boston and Newport. In 1892, owing to sudden changes in her family, she entered the Library as assistant in the Ordering Department, and after thirty years of service resigned in July, 1921, to fulfil a long cherished wish to live the rest of her days in England.

She sailed in September and went immediately to Abingdon in Berkshire, but the climate did not agree with her, and in a letter of November, 1922, she wrote, "I sail for home December 9. The Doctor says I cannot winter in England again and I have proved it." She arrived in Boston just before Christmas, glad to be at home, but failed to regain her health and died on November 3, 1923.

Mrs. Goddard's connection with the Library covered a generation, and to the end of life her interest in the doings of those she had known here was unflagging. Her devotion to her work, assigning books to the Branches (she called them her children), her unvarying courtesy and agreeable presence, made her a well-beloved member of the staff. And those to whom she gave wise counsel and generous sympathy hold her in affectionate remembrance.

T. E. M.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

Mrs. Elizabeth T. Reed and Miss Helen M. Bell are the first of our pensioned associates to take advantage of the provisions of the new Constitution allowing ex-members to resign from the Benefit Association with a 50% refund of all dues paid, minus sick benefits received. At a meeting of the Board of Directors on November 6 the treasurer was authorized to make these payments.

The Board of Directors wishes to emphasize the necessity of making application for sick benefit *not later than two weeks after the first day of illness*. A doctor's certificate *must* accompany this request. According to the Constitution, members who fail to conform to the above requirements cannot count on the payment of sick benefits.

THE SICK LIST.

Mr. James P. Mooers, Chairman of the Relief Committee of the Benefit Association, reports that Miss Therese Masterson, of the Bindery Department, Miss Fanny Goldstein, of West End Branch, and Miss Margaret Rooney, of Brighton Branch, are still unable to return to their posts.

Miss Mary C. Sheridan, of the Issue Department, has been ordered by her physicians to take an extended rest. A host of friends extend sympathy and good wishes for her complete recovery. Members of the Issue Department sent Miss Sheridan an attractive basket of delicacies as an expression of their loyalty.

On October 22, Miss Gertrude L. Connell, of Faneuil Branch, was the victim of an automobile collision in which she sustained injuries about the head; her car was demolished.

THE STAFF CLUB'S HALLOWEEN PARTY.

Ghosts, witches, black cats, skeletons and about sixty members of the Staff Club gathered Friday evening, October 26, in the dimly lighted Staff

Lecture Room of the Central Library.

The touch of the professional was apparent in Miss Eleanor Mulcahy's decorations. The gigantic jack o' lantern in the fireplace, the black cat light-shades and the various wall decorations were the clever results of her trained fingers. "Wonderful, simply wonderful," our Director exclaimed as he viewed the room.

After the President, Miss Mary Curley, had welcomed the Club, with a special word of greeting to several of our retired members present, the program opened with an amusing exhibition of hypnotism, in which Mr. Chase gave visible proof of his subjection to the will of the hypnotist.

The lights were then lowered, and Mrs. Mary Russell, author and professional story-teller enthralled the audience with a creepy, thrilly ghost story, in the course of which she passed around spooky relics. The effect of her recital was intensified at a critical moment by a piercing scream, which Miss Katherine McGah explained later as the result of a cold, clammy hand claspng her neck. At the end of the ghost story Mrs. Russell rewarded the persistent applause of her audience with the "Adventures of Tommy on Halloween Night."

In the book-title guessing contest which followed, Miss Alice Hanson was awarded the prize, a picture of Tommy, the "kidnapped kitten."

During the evening an adorable little witch flitted about predicting golden rings, happiness and riches to those who sought her insight into their futures. Many vacancies on the Staff seem imminent.

The ghost presently appeared on the scene with a mournful monologue, which terminated in the joyous announcement that refreshments were waiting in the lunch-room. Music and dancing followed until the closing hour.

Great praise for the enjoyable party is due to the Committee, consisting of Miss Bessie Doherty, Chairman, Miss Eleanor Mulcahy, Miss Ruth Hayes, of Dorchester, and Mr. Samuel A. Chevalier.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume III, No. 3

December 15, 1923

CONTENTS.

SHAKESPEARE IN THE STAFF ROOM	25	LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES	27
EXAMINING COMMITTEE	26	EDITORIALS	28
DRAMATICS	26	NEWS NOTES	28
RECOGNITION	26	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION	30
STAFF STAG LUNCHES	27	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	31
IN MEMORY	27	LIBRARY SPIRIT CLUB	32
		STAFF CLUB	32

SHAKESPEARE IN THE STAFF ROOM.

Of all the various observances held hereabout in honor of the Tercentenary of the First Folio, few could have suited Shakespeare better than the one planned by the Staff Club of our Public Library. At least, that is the way it seemed to a favored guest one night this last November, near St. Martin's day.

Upstairs, near the other stars, the First Folio itself, wide open, rested in splendid isolation under glass.

Downstairs, "deeper than ever plummet sounded" in the Library, that book beloved was receiving grateful intimate interpretation by members of the staff, from the Director himself down to the smallest of the "runners."

It was a springlike autumn evening with a resplendent Moonshine looking in at the casement of the great chamber. Exactly the right note was struck at the beginning by a group of singers, notably accompanied. They sang Elizabethan songs, including some that Shakespeare used, — Sir Toby's "Three merry men be we," Amiens's "Under the Greenwood Tree," — jolly roundelays and some sober chantings. There followed the artisan scenes from the Dream, dreamed of a Midsummer Night, with a Bottom of a soul-satisfying leonine roar and dove-like care for the ladies, while the rest

of Peter Quince's cast, before a house never doubted to be his, were of a fine Elizabethan tradition.

More Shakespearean music, and then the Master of Ceremonies, whose wits no cross-gartering, even of the most intricate, could obstruct, announced a Pageant. Ambitious plans for costuming and scenery had to be renounced for reasons concerning pence; the Master of Ceremonies carried out the Shakespearean legend by taking it most courteously for granted that of course the spectators could supply both from out their imaginations — and they did.

Then there passed before us, by ones and twos and threes, adored people all, out of the three-hundred-year-old book upstairs. The Chief first, who by means of beautifully spoken lines and a sheet folded in the high Roman fashion, brought Julius Caesar and then Othello to the Staff Room.

And after him, men, women and little Prince Mamillius. The suggestion by word or "property" was often of the smallest, yet it served; the recognition and response were instant.

A troubadour feather thrust into the ribbon of a "Derby" made a hat for a thoroughly convincing Romeo; Katharine and Petruchio in their habits as they came that morning to the Library, condensed the fourth act of "The Shrew" into three minutes. Perdita, charming in a gown of this last summer's simplest mode and a posy or

two; the Merry Wives and their victim, untaught of calories; Shylock, splendidly oriental; a rollicking Autolycus; witches and grave diggers. The catalogue grows too long on paper; it was all too short upon the Library stage.

The gentle lady who guards and shares Shakespearean treasures felt apologetic; there was no need. Proof could not be stronger that "Never anything can be amiss when simpleness and duty tender it." It was such a joyous tribute, unstudied, spirited, a simple setting forth of thanks for what had been received from the master-dramatist. It was not difficult to hear his gentle, pleased response in Kent's arresting words: "To be acknowledged is to be o'erpaid."

I. M. Q.

EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

The Library Examining Committee met for organization on November 14, in the Trustees' Room, with Rt. Rev. Msgr. Arthur T. Connolly as chairman. Mr. Vincent A. Keenan was elected vice-chairman and the usual sub-committees were formed. These committees are now at work, visiting the various departments and preparing reports. The Committee is made up as follows:

Rev. William J. Barry
Mrs. I. Tucker Burr
Dr. Paul F. Butler
Mr. Francis M. Carroll
Miss Rosanna M. Dowd
Mrs. Carl Dreyfus
Mr. Henry Gideon
Mr. Edward S. Goulston
Miss Heloise E. Hersey
Mr. Vincent A. Keenan
Hon. Frank Leveroni
Mrs. Marguerite J. Martin
Dr. William J. Mixter
Dr. Harold A. Murphy
Miss Mary Ranney

DRAMATICS.

Among the unusual library events of this year of Shakespearean celebrations was the dramatic reading in the Lecture Hall on the afternoon of Sun-

day, December 2, of "Henry IV, Part I." The scenes were read by sixteen members of the Shakespeare Clubs of Boston and Cambridge; among the readers were Mr. Belden and Mr. William C. Lane, Librarian of Harvard University. The Hall was packed with an enthusiastic audience and the dramatic effect was vivid, in spite of the fact that no costumes were used.

One of the indications of increasing interest in the drama on the part of the Library is the Christmas pageant to be presented under the auspices of the Community Service of Boston in the Lecture Hall on Sunday afternoon, December 23. The pageant, "Star Gleams," by Florence Lewis Speare, in which are introduced two tableaux from Grace W. Ripley's "Light of the Star," will consist of a procession, episodes, and tableaux, with music. Many members of the Library staff will take part in the pageant, for which rehearsals are being conducted by Miss Joy Higgins, Director. A preliminary performance will be given in the Lecture Hall on Saturday evening, December 22, at which some 200 disabled veterans of the World War will be guests. It will be repeated on Christmas Eve at 5:15 and 9:30 in the Parkman Bandstand on Boston Common.

RECOGNITION.

The Staff of the Library was greatly pleased by the recent action of the Board of Trustees, announced by the Director on November 17, in giving a substantial recognition to those employees who have served the Library more than thirty-five years. To each of these seventeen employees will be paid, in quarterly installments, a sum which varies from \$100, to those who have served between 35 and 40 years, to \$300, to those who have served more than 45 years. The list of employees whose faithfulness is thus generously recognized is as follows:

Margaret S. Barton, Dorchester
Martha L. C. Berry, Fellowes Athenæum
Frank C. Blaisdell, Issue Dept.
Dora C. Cutler, Catalogue Dept.

Agnes C. Doyle, Bates Hall Reference Dept.

Ida W. Gould, Catalogue Dept.

Sarah W. Griggs, Fellowes Athenæum

William P. Hemstedt, Bindery

Emma F. Lynch, South End

John F. Murphy, Bindery

Adelaide A. Nichols, Auditor

Alice P. Orcutt, Jamaica Plain

Florence Richards, Shelf Dept.

Nellie F. Riley, Jamaica Plain

William G. T. Roffe, Shelf Dept.

Margaret A. Sheridan, South End

Mary C. Sheridan, Issue Dept.

Of the persons in the list above, eight will receive \$100, five \$200, and four \$300, during the year 1923-24. The first payment was made on Monday, December 3.

STAFF STAG LUNCHES.

On Friday, December 7, a number of men of the staff, including the Director, lunched informally together at Yoeng's, 200 Huntington Avenue. The affair was so great a success that it was suggested that a series of lunches be held, perhaps once in two or three weeks, at which any male member of the Library staff will find a welcome. The next lunch will take place on Wednesday, January 16, at Yoeng's, at 1:15 sharp.

The distance is short, the service prompt, the food good, the prices reasonable. Reservations are not necessary. Come if you are a man and are interested!

IN MEMORY.

Mrs. Mary Agnes Keating, wife of Philip S. Keating, died on Sunday, December 9, at her home, 37 Forbes Street. Mrs. Keating, who was Miss Agnes McSweeney before her marriage, was for some time a member of the Catalogue Department of the Library. Her son, Paul S. Keating, is at present employed in the Fine Arts Department. The funeral services were held in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Jamaica Plain; interment was at Holyhood Cemetery. Mrs. Keating was a

fine musician, and is remembered with affection by her old associates in the Library.

On Saturday morning, November 17, William H. Carey, father of Miss Gertrude Carey, of the Bindery, was killed in an accident. The funeral services were held in St. Peter's Church, Dorchester, on Tuesday morning, November 21, at 9 o'clock. LIBRARY LIFE offers its deepest sympathy to Miss Carey in her great bereavement.

Miss Anne Capen, the only child of Edward Capen, first Librarian of the Boston Public Library, died on November 20 at Phillips House, after a painful illness. She was buried in the family lot at Forest Hills on December 3.

LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES.

LIBRARY LIFE touches at Hyde Park this month to say good-bye. To our readers we offer Miss Elizabeth Ainsworth, librarian of Hyde Park Branch, now retired, who went out with the first company of pensioners last April.

Each of us knows privately just what his work means to his own particular self. Even to those who have acquired a certain jauntiness in the way they take life, "the job" is a pretty vital matter. But Miss Ainsworth is gentle, grieving, hurt when things don't go her way. After all these months, it makes her choke to speak of it — her work that she had to give up. For a while, she couldn't even go back to the Branch, it made her so homesick. But she is getting over that now.

She has to stop to wipe the mist off her glasses before she can go on to tell how she is one of those for whom retirement has been a hard experience. If only Hyde Park hadn't been annexed, and she could keep on at her work which she knows and loves so! Do anything else? "Ah, what is there at my age?" she asks.

LIBRARY LIFE agrees with you, Miss Ainsworth, that it is too bad. In parting, we pledge you our heartfelt regard.

C. H.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Associate Editors.

MARION A. MCCARTHY

HARRY W. MATHEWS

WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY

MARY E. PRIM
HARRIET SWIFT

Vol. III, No. 3. December 15, 1923

A Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year to all the staff is the wish of LIBRARY LIFE. A bigger, better, happier Library in 1924!

THE YEARS' REWARD.

Once in a rare while, an executive has the chance to propose some policy of which everybody approves. Such a chance came to Mr. Belden soon after being made Director of the Library; and we all rejoice with him in the kind action of the Board of Trustees by which an additional compensation for service is to be paid to employees of the Library of more than thirty-five years standing.

Maturity has a value of its own. Long service in a position, or in an institution, gives to him who serves a sixth sense — a feeling for the way in which things are wont to be done — which can hardly be acquired except by the mere passage of time. It is fitting that this value should be frankly recognized.

The act of the Trustees is in every way a gracious one, which appeals to the humanity of the entire staff. Many of the beneficiaries of the plan began to serve the Library and its public in a day when the library profession and library science were still in their infancy. Their training was obtained in the process of doing their work; their knowledge is a knowledge born of this Library, focussing here, finding its

full value only in the environment in which it was obtained. For them the Boston Public Library is home, and they are members of its family. To the public they have become an integral part of the institution.

Thirty-five years ago was 1888, when the new building in Copley Square was hardly more than a fine dream; the youngest in service of these comrades of ours had been with the Library seven years when the building was occupied. Some of us have a wider experience of the outer world; some have had special training and have brought to the institution a valuable perspective. But these senior members of the staff have the Boston Public Library in their blood, and we greet them with the respect and admiration due to veterans.

In the memory of the oldest inhabitant of the Library, this is the first increase of pay which has failed to stir up even the shadow of jealousy. We are all heartily glad of the generosity shown to our associates. In behalf of the entire staff, LIBRARY LIFE offers sincere congratulations, both to Mr. Belden and the Trustees, and to those seventeen who are reaping the reward of faithful service.

The delightful article entitled "Shakespeare in the Staff Room" was written by Mrs. Josiah H. Quincy, leader of the West Roxbury Shakespeare Club, who was a guest at the meeting which she so sympathetically describes. The interest of such users of the Library as Mrs. Quincy is a great stimulus and encouragement to the members of the staff.

NEWS NOTES.

CENTRAL LIBRARY.

On Wednesday, November 21, Miss Lillian M. Needham, of the West Roxbury Branch, was married to Mr. Walter Forrest, at the Blessed Sacrament Church, Jamaica Plain. The ceremony was performed by Rev. Francis Kelliher. Miss Helen Needham, of the West Roxbury Branch, and Mr. Wil-

liam Needham, sister and brother of the bride, were the bridesmaid and best man. After the wedding ceremony, a reception was held at the Hotel Westminster.

Since the last issue of *LIBRARY LIFE* two articles by Mr. Chase have been published in library periodicals: "The Librarian's Leisure Hour Reading," in *Public Libraries* for November; and a signed review of the Report of the Committee on Methods of the Special Libraries Association, in *Special Libraries* for October.

Mr. John J. O'Brien, of the Bindery, has on two occasions during the past month sung for broadcasting over the radio from the Shepard Stores, Station WNAC. A new fox-trot song, dedicated to the Shepard Stores Radio Plant, has been written by Mr. O'Brien and will be published in the near future.

A class in elementary Italian, under the spirited instruction of Miss Eleanor M. Colleton, has been meeting for several weeks in the Staff Lecture Room on Saturday mornings. The class at present numbers thirty-four, all but two of whom are employees of the Library.

In the exhibition case of the Barton Library there is at present shown an interesting series of autograph letters and poems by Emily Dickinson. Dr. Zoltan Haraszti, who is in charge of the Barton Library, contributed to the *Boston Transcript* of Saturday, December 8, an interesting illustrated article about these treasures, with the title, "An Emily Dickinson Collection."

A class in lettering, for Branch assistants, began its work on November 28, under the direction of Miss Eleanor Mulcahy, graduate of the Normal Art School, and assistant in the Fine Arts Department. The meetings are held in the West Gallery of the Special Libraries at 9:30 a.m.; they will be continued on Dec. 18, Jan. 29, and Feb. 26. A registration of 28 assistants indicates that our Branches will soon be proudly displaying the efficient and artistic results of this course.

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

CITY POINT: If you want to see the nicest and most suggestive Christmas list of stories for grown-ups, ask for the one compiled by Miss Alice L. Murphy, Librarian of the City Point Branch. This list is in three sections. The first is a delightful key foreword, which "unlocks" the list; the second, an author and title list; and the third, a list of the subjects covered. The Branch Librarians, in meeting assembled, paid the compiler the tribute of unanimous and spontaneous applause when the foreword was read to them.

FANEUIL: Miss Connell, as emissary for the Branch Circulation Committee, recently interviewed Mr. McCarthy, of the Boston Elevated Railway, in regard to some Library advertising on the electric cars. As a result, the Director received from the Company an offer of space on 1100 cars for a placard advertising the Library and its Branches.

JAMAICA PLAIN: Miss Mary P. Swain entertained her former assistants of the Jamaica Plain Branch at her home in Charlestown on the evening of Oct. 12.

TYLER STREET: Fourteen boys of the Quincy School have made posters illustrating the subject "Keep the Library Books Clean." The librarian offered as a prize for the best poster a copy of "Treasure Island," and as a prize for the second best, a copy of the "Boys' Life of Lincoln." Mr. Belden, Miss Ethel Power, editor of the *House Beautiful*, and Miss Haggerty, of the Quincy School, served as judges. The first prize was awarded to Paul J. Mozzicato, and the second to Abraham Katz.

WEST END: Miss Goldstein is back again at West End, ready for anything. She reports that she has no words glowing enough in which to express her appreciation of the way in which the staff carried on in her absence. This was to be expected, with the faithful and efficient Miss Watson in charge. In times past we spoke of "pillars" of an organization. Miss Watson is indeed one of the pillars of

the Branch System. Long may she continue to help hold the roof high and level!

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION.

The Special Libraries Association of Boston, after dining together at Cook's, met on the evening of November 26, at the rooms of the Associated Industries of Massachusetts in the new Park Square Building. Five persons were unanimously elected to membership. The meeting was the sequel of the conference on local sources of information, held at the Boston Public Library in October by the Extension Service Committee.

Mr. O. L. Stone, general manager of the Associated Industries, told of the Association's aim to form an industrial centre, with experts ready to give information and advice on any problem affecting industrial welfare in Massachusetts. The membership, of 1550, includes seventy-five per cent of the industries of the state.

Mr. Robert Kelso, secretary of the Boston Council of Social Agencies (134 in number), spoke of the work of the Council in preventing duplication in the disbursement of \$14,000,000 annually. He announced that the 7th edition of the Boston Directory of Social Agencies may be expected in February, and will probably cost \$2.00 a copy.

Mr. Joseph D. Taylor, counsel of the Boston Legal Aid Society, explained the assistance given by the Society to the poor, for a nominal fee, in such matters as wage claims, rent raising, workmen's compensation and fraud.

The Prospect Union Educational Exchange was represented by Mr. Charles A. Gates, the director. The Exchange has published a catalogue of 1159 courses of study accessible in Greater Boston, arranged by subject; it supplements this catalogue by individual advice to those who apply.

The Sampson & Murdock Co., said Mr. Hawkes, the librarian, offers the use of about 1000 directories, covering 3000 cities and towns in the United States and Canada, and 500 trade directories. Personal reference to a

definite name is free, but for compilation of lists the charge is 50 cents per hour.

Mr. Will Frank Davis, president of the W. A. Greenough Co., said that his company has complete files of the directories of twelve towns in Massachusetts and New Hampshire, for the use of which no charge is made.

Miss Olive M. Jaqués, of the Travelers' Aid Society, told of work at the North and South Stations, and at the docks. This includes protective work, hospitality, and reassurance, from 7 a.m. till midnight; 30,000 persons were aided last year.

Mr. Edward L. Greene spoke for the Boston Better Business Commission, which aims to prevent misrepresentation in advertising and selling, and to build up confidence in business.

Mr. Clifford K. Brown told of the work of the Y. M. C. A., its branches and schools, and its activities for recreation, health and housing. There are 3000 students in its classes and 30,000 others living in the "Y" area.

Miss Howlett, of the R. H. White Company, and Miss Wessman, of Filene's, explained the work of their information and personal service bureaus, which covers theatre reservations, travel information, room registry, typed tours of historic Boston, lists of inexpensive cafés, translation, lending umbrellas, weighing and wrapping mail, checking parcels, selecting gifts — and all for no charge.

Miss Gibbs called to mind the ever-increasing informational service of the Tel-U-Where Company.

Mr. Edward G. Stacy described the Massachusetts State Chamber of Commerce, of which he is Secretary, as a federation of 700 local chambers of commerce and boards of trade, representing 35,000 business men, organized to influence business in a constructive way.

Mr. Briggs, the President of the Association, in opening the evening's program, had spoken of the occasion as a "thanksgiving service," expressing thanks that Boston possesses so many valuable sources of information; and every listener to the succession of revelations shared in gratitude not only for

the knowledge of such sources, but for the cordial offers of co-operation from each and all of the agencies represented.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The meeting of the Employees' Benefit Association, adjourned from October 3, will be held on Tuesday, January 8, in the Lecture Hall. The hour will be announced later.

REPRESENTATIVES.

The new Constitution of the Association (Article VI, Section 6k) instructs the Board of Directors: to appoint in each Department and Branch of the Library a member of the Association, who shall serve one year or until his successor is appointed, and who shall be responsible

- (1) For notifying the Relief Committee at once of all cases of illness occurring in his department or branch.
- (2) For reporting to the Secretary the names of new employees and retiring members, with date of employment or retirement.
- (3) On recommendation of the Board of Directors, to invite new employees to join the Association.

In accord with this provision, the Board of Directors has appointed the following representatives:

CENTRAL LIBRARY DEPARTMENTS.

Office,	Miss Shumway
Auditor,	Miss Shubarth
Bates Hall Catalogue,	Mr. Conroy
Centre Desk,	Mr. Mulloney
Children's Room,	Miss Manning
Issue Dept.,	Miss Reynolds
Registration Dept.,	Miss Mulvaney
Statistical Dept.,	Mr. Rosenberg
Special Libraries,	Mr. Rowlands
Periodical Room,	Mr. Clegg
Information Office,	Miss Prim
Ordering Dept.,	Miss Hayes
Catalogue Dept.,	Mr. Graham
Shelf Dept.,	Mr. Connor
Branch Issue,	Miss Doherty
Bindery,	Mr. Gallagher
Printing Dept.,	Mr. Hoffman
Engineers,	Mr. Kelley

BRANCH LIBRARIES.

Allston,	Miss Muldoon
Boylston Station,	Miss Nickerson
Brighton,	Miss Conley
Charlestown,	Miss McGovern
Codman Square,	Miss R. Sather

Dorchester,	Miss Barton
East Boston,	Miss Bell
Faneuil,	Miss G. Connell
Fellowes Athenæum,	Miss Berry
Hyde Park,	Miss Stone
Jamaica Plain,	Miss N. Riley
Jeffries Point,	Miss Calnan
Mt. Bowdoin,	Miss Kernachan
Mt. Pleasant,	Miss Reid
Neponset,	Miss C. Kelley
North End,	Miss Donovan
Orient Heights,	Miss Flannery
Parker Hill,	Miss Hession
Roslindale,	Miss Morrissey
Roxbury Crossing,	Miss K. Sather
South Boston.	Miss A. Lynch
South End,	Miss A. McEttrick
Tyler Street,	Miss Scoff
Upham's Corner,	Miss Loughman
West End,	Miss Watson
West Roxbury,	Miss Willis

This provision of the Constitution is most important and helpful. When illness descends, often suddenly, the sufferer is seldom in a state of mind to consider "ways and means," and is likely to neglect making application for sick benefit. It will now be the duty of each division representative to notify the Secretary of any absence for illness in his department or branch; the sick member should also send in a doctor's certificate with application for benefit as soon as possible.

THE SICK LIST.

The Chairman of the Relief Committee reports that Miss Mary Sheridan, of the Issue Department; Miss Therese Masterson and Miss Mary E. Dornan, of the Bindery; Miss Mary M. Sullivan of Parker Hill Branch; and Miss Margaret Rooney, of Brighton Branch are still unable to return to their posts. Miss Annie Fuller, of the Branch Department, and Miss Henrietta F. Temple, of Charlestown Branch, are also ill. We are glad to learn that Miss Fanny Goldstein, librarian of West End Branch, has recovered her strength, and is again at her accustomed post.

The following members of the staff, who do not belong to the Association, have also been ill: Miss Margaret Twomey, of the Issue Department;

Miss Edith J. Berkman, of the Auditor's Office; and Miss Dorothy Harvey, of the Branch Department.

LIBRARY SPIRIT CLUB.

The Library Spirit Club held its first meeting for the year on Tuesday evening, October 30, in the Staff Lecture Room. At a short business meeting it was voted that the Library Spirit Club would join with the Staff Club in plans for the Shakespearean celebration next month. After business was disposed of, the members engaged in some humorous Halloween games until intermission, when refreshments were served. A masked favor dance followed, in which paper sunshades were distributed to the young ladies, while the young men received balloons.

The committee in charge of this very successful party consisted of Miss Mary McDonough, Mr. Thomas Manning and Miss Edith von Schoppe. Miss Ruth Hayes presided at the piano, assisted by Miss Edith Daly and Mr. Arthur Buckley. Miss Florence F. Richards was the chaperone of the evening.

STAFF CLUB.

As its contribution to the Library's celebration of the First Folio Tercentenary, the Staff Club held a Shakespeare party on Wednesday evening, November 21. It was assisted in its merry-making by the Library Spirit Club, which had been invited to hold a joint meeting with the older organization. The program was as follows:

Songs of the time of Shakespeare. Library chorus, directed by Mr. Richard G. Appel.

Scenes from "A Midsummer Night's Dream." Members of the Library Spirit Club, under the direction of Miss Christine Hayes.

CAST.

Bottom	William Graham
Quince	Thomas Manning
Flute	Mary McDonough
Snug	Edith Daly
Snout	Alice Kernan
Starveling	Annie Brennan

More Shakespeare songs. Library chorus.

Pageant of Shakespeare characters. Miss

Mary A. Tenney, director.

Julius Caesar,	Mr. Belden
Juliet,	Miss Ruth Hayes
Romeo,	Mr. Hannigan
Falstaff,	Mr. Graham
Mrs. Ford,	Miss Gould
Mrs. Page,	Miss Toy
Othello,	Mr. John Matchett
First Gravedigger,	Mr. Clegg
Second Gravedigger,	Mr. Guinan
Hamlet,	Mr. Haraszti
Ophelia,	Miss Swift
Malvolio,	Mr. Chase
Marcellus,	Mr. Francis Matchett
Perdita,	Miss Prim
Autolycus,	Mr. Bowen
Petruchio,	Mr. Chenery
Katharine,	Miss Cufflin
First witch,	Miss Hazlewood
Second witch,	Miss Jennie Smithers
Third witch,	Miss Sinclair
Lady Macbeth,	Miss Deery
Macbeth,	Mr. Kelley
Caliban,	Mr. Manning
Prospero,	Mr. Rovner
Shylock,	Mr. Taylor
Portia,	Miss Cross

The pageant was made the occasion of a guessing contest. Paper and pencils were distributed and the audience was asked to note the names of the characters as they appeared. The prize, won by Mr. John Murdoch, was an etching, giving an unusual view of Anne Hathaway's cottage. The evening closed with refreshments and dancing.

The committee, to which the success of the evening was due, consisted of Miss Christine Hayes, Miss Alice Jordan, Miss Carrie Morse, Miss Alice Orcutt, Miss Mary Tenney and Mr. Frank Chase, chairman.

It was pleasant to note in the audience some of our retired members, among them Miss Elizabeth Ainsworth, Miss Helen Bell, Mrs. Mary Mullen, Mrs. Elizabeth Reed and Mr. John Murdoch. We hope that they will join us frequently.

The next meeting of the Staff Club, a Christmas Festival, will be held on Thursday evening, December 27, at 8 o'clock, in the Staff Lecture Room. The President, Miss Mary F. Curley, is chairman of the committee in charge.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume III, No. 4

January 15, 1924

CONTENTS.

INSIDE OUT: THE PAGEANT	33	LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES	39
CHRISTMAS GREETINGS	35	EDITORIALS	40
DINNER TO MR. FLEISCHNER	35	NEWS NOTES	41
MEDALS FROM RAVENNA	36	PUBLICATIONS	43
HOLLY AND MISTLETOE	37	CHRISTMAS AT THE BRANCHES	43
THE HENRY JAMES BUST	38	IMPROVEMENTS	46
ROXBURGHE CLUB	38	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	47
FOOTBALL	38	LIBRARY SPIRIT CLUB	48
		STAFF CLUB'S CHRISTMAS PARTY	48

INSIDE OUT.

A PERFORMER'S VIEW OF THE CHRISTMAS PAGEANT.

On Saturday evening and Sunday afternoon, the 22d and 23d of December, the Library Staff, or certain portions thereof, presented a Christmas pageant, "Star Gleams," in the Lecture Hall. Truthfully it may be said that it was a memorable occasion — at least for that majority of us who, for the first time, were thus called upon "to speak in public on the stage," at our more or less tender ages. Looking back from the safe position of a new year already firmly ballasted with good resolutions, it seems as if the Christmas spirit must be peculiarly conducive to pageants. For surely it was only the general optimism of the season that could have induced thirty otherwise rational persons to undertake a stage production in addition to all the other burdens of the season — selecting just the proper tie for Ethelbert, and a toy with non-poisonous paint for the baby, and those silk stockings or pink — well, whatever it is you give Cousin Tabitha. Besides Christmas cards for one and all. In view of such busy days, one might have supposed that the saner members of the Library staff would have hesitated. But Miss Joy

Higgins was to direct it, and that thought vanquished every lingering doubt. Casting to the winds the better part of valor, we caught the mood, and became her willing servants.

Now producing a pageant is no easy task, and many a time had we cause to thank Miss Higgins for her patience. There is the mere matter of rehearsals. For unlike Snug's famous part of the Lion, it is not possible to "do it extempore," even though much of it is (to stretch a point) "nothing but roaring" the old familiar carols. So we rehearsed.

Unfortunately, trying to get all thirty of us together at one time proved to be much like counting the bubbles in a dish of heating water. While some are coming, others are going. The first king, say, cannot be there until five, at which time one of the other kings has to be somewhere else. Or the Prophet is there, but his interlocutor is out with a sore throat. Or, late in the day, one of the principals finds that he has mistaken the dates and cannot possibly take part at all. Then follows the frantic search over Boston for someone to man the breach. We in our case were fortunate; the same piece was to be repeated the next day as part of the exercises on the Common, and many of the performers thereat were available for emergency duty with us.

So we rehearsed. Always one, often several members of the cast were absent. "All the world's a stage . . . and one man in his time plays many parts." But no more than does the filler-in at a pageant, who on one day must read the lines of two or three absent actors and on the next day those of quite a different group. He and the director are the only persons who ever see the piece in its entirety; for the rest, "they come like water and like wind they go."

Yet another problem was finding a spot where thirty people could rehearse. The natural place, of course, was the Lecture Hall where the performance was finally given, but alas! so avid is the search for knowledge in this our city that few hours are available when the hall is not in use. The dress rehearsal, or what was to have been the dress rehearsal, was ousted from the Lecture Hall by a newly organized class in economics. So we perforce betook ourselves through the stacks, losing members of the cast at every turning, to the Staff Lecture Room. There, on a space cleared by shoving back the chairs, we carried on as best we might, halting ever and anon to ask, "I'm sorry, Miss Higgins, but just *where* are the steps supposed to be," or "Is that the Star about up there?" And so on.

Saturday night, the hour and a half preceding the performance was like a scene from the Arabian Nights. Out of capacious boxes, as if by a mere rub of the lamp, came costumes, singly and in batches, wholly and in part, or most often no more than colored stuffs "void and without form," which by a dexterous fold or two and aided by copious pins, Mrs. Sullivan, our Mistress of the Wardrobe, transformed into "period" garments. Fortunately, perhaps, as regards cut, biblical clothing leaves much latitude for the vagaries of fancy; but who would think that a burlap bag, indiscriminately splashed with paint, and a length of colored cheese cloth wound round the head could convert a twentieth-century librarian into a staid and highly respectable merchant of Bethlehem? To be sure, some of the ladies mistook him for The Sheik.

And the angels; ah! the angels! Again who would imagine the tinsel and cardboard that go to make up the hosts of Heaven? White stockings and a bit of muslin — and Solomon in all his glory was not arrayed like one of these. Bobbed hair, too, was very much in keeping. It seems to be the Alpha and Omega of seraphic vesture; always in style, no matter what the prevailing taste in halos and trumpets. Some may have felt the anachronism of a star-and-crescent decoration on the mantle impressed into service at the last minute to hide the nakedness of one of the "Peepul." But of our hair-dressing we were sure; bobs were absolutely *au fait*.

So it came at last that the show was over, and the Tumults and the Shoutings died. The heavenly choir, its last "Gloria" echoed into stillness, had resolved itself once more into human entities born of earth. Only the picture-taking remained. So while the famished cast stayed its hunger with chunks of rye bread torn from the loaf once borne by the erstwhile and now vainly resisting Beggar Boy, the photographic battalions were massed and the "shooting" at length began. Everyone wanted to be in the front of the group (though none would admit it) and many were the subtle machinations or vain sighs of the less fortunate, as positions were allotted. For the honor of all be it said that the pictures came out very well.

This should be the end, but alas! there is no end to a theatrical performance until the scenes are struck, the floor swept and tidied, and the scattered properties have drifted slowly home to their respective owners. Often it is a long process. There is the story of the lost staff, for instance, or, in eastern parlance, the Episode of the Third Shepherd. This stalwart youth caused the management much perturbation of mind, and almost succeeded in turning the Christmas story into the original "crook" play.

He, it seems, consigned his shepherd's staff at the close of the performance to the custody of Saint Joseph. The saint, however, being abstracted with more weighty matters, failed to

make note of the transaction. So it came about that when properties were checked up, there was one crook missing. Diligent search was made; for weeks everyone entering or leaving the building was carefully searched, though, to be sure, a seven-foot crook is a difficult thing to conceal about one's person. But without results. The Shepherd and the Saint are both above suspicion. So there the matter rested.

As we go to press we are informed that the mystery is solved. The Pilgrim, he whose keen eye first discovered the Star, had while prowling about on his duties as Watchman, chanced upon the lamented implement hooked over a cabinet in a dark corner of what had been our temporary dressing-room. Being of the same color and wood as the cabinet, it had not occurred to anyone that it was not an integral part thereof.

And so, with the missing crook restored to its rightful owners, the pageant draws to a tardy close.

W. R. B.

The following list of the members of the Library staff who took part in the pageant may be of interest:

Pilgrim: Horace L. Wheeler.
 Voice of the People: William R. Brewster.
 Shepherds: William F. A. Graham, Joseph F. Guinan, George C. Johnson.
 "Cavalcade": Annie M. Brennan, Santa M. Costa, Edith J. Daly, Ida W. Gould, Helen Griffin, Harriet J. Kelleher, Mary M. McDonough, Francis X. Matchett, Alice F. Smithers.

TABLEAU.

Virgin Mary: Ruth M. Hayes.
 Saint Anne: Della J. Deery, Harriet Swift.
 Saint Joseph: Kenneth C. Barnes.
 Saint John: Douglas P. Adams.
 Angels: Helen F. Jordan, Alice M. Kernan, Helen F. O'Hara, Mary R. Santino, Edith von Schoppe, Ruth von Schoppe.

Owing to the impossibility of bringing their horses and camels into the Lecture Hall, the members of the "Cavalcade" were dismounted, and entered on foot.

The singing was under the skilful direction of Mr. Appel. The fittings of the stage, including the lights, were provided by the Engineer Department of the Library.

CHRISTMAS GREETINGS.

During the holiday season, an attractive leaflet with a holly border in green and red, was placed in every book sent out of the Library and its Branches. It read as follows:

HOLIDAY GREETINGS FROM THE PUBLIC LIBRARY.

With the coming of Christmas, the Public Library extends to you greetings in the hope that during the New Year it may continue to serve you.

Three million Library books were lent for use in the homes of citizens during 1923. The Library desires to extend this service to many new friends in 1924.

Will you not call to the attention of some friend or neighbor the advantages which the Library and its Branches offer, and the fact that every citizen has the right to make free use thereof. All will be welcomed by the librarians and their assistants.

With every good wish for Christmas and the New Year!

The Director and Staff of the
 Public Library of the City of Boston.

Posters, prominently displayed in all Library buildings, bore a similar greeting. The artistic printing of both these expressions of the Christmas spirit was such as to do credit to our Printing Department.

DINNER TO MR. FLEISCHNER.

Mr. and Mrs. Belden were the host and hostess at an informal dinner tendered to Mr. Otto Fleischner by the Director and Chiefs of Departments of the Library, at the Boston Art Club, on Friday evening, December 21.

Reminiscent of the Whitney dinner held in 1909 at the Hotel Vendome, this gathering was a tribute of regard to our retired Assistant Librarian; the arrangements had been kept secret and Mr. Fleischner was genuinely surprised to see twenty-four friends assembled to greet him. After a few minutes in the reception room of the Club, spent in congratulations to Mr. Fleischner and regrets that Mrs. Fleischner was unable to come on account of illness, the party proceeded to a private dining room. The table was decorated with roses, holly, poinsettia and asparagus vines, while at each

plate was a Christmas place-card, a Beacon pink and a souvenir bonbon basket made by Mrs. Belden. The quotations printed on the menu were "Ripe in wisdom was he," "Friendship's the wine of life," and "Should auld acquaintance be forgot?"

At the end of the dinner, Mr. Belden said a few words expressing the affection of every member of the staff for Mr. Fleischner, and read the resolutions adopted, in recognition of his long, efficient and devoted service, at the meeting of the Trustees on December 14, and made public for the first time at this dinner; the minute is as follows:

In Board of Trustees,

Friday, December 14, 1923.

"Resolved, That in the retirement of Otto Fleischner the Public Library of the City of Boston has been deprived of the services of a devoted and capable official who, for more than thirty years, contributed much to the life and progress of the institution. Mr. Fleischner entered the service of the Library on November 23, 1891. Soon after the occupation of the Copley Square building in 1895 he was chosen to organize the Special Libraries Department which has since been conducted along the lines he inaugurated. On January 12, 1900, Mr. Fleischner was advanced to the position of Assistant Librarian. In this post, under three successive librarians, he labored earnestly and indefatigably in the service of the Library, carrying many responsibilities easily and efficiently. He has withdrawn from the Library at the age of seventy, still full of energy and zest in life. The Trustees assure to Mr. Fleischner their enduring esteem and for his continuing happiness extend their hearty good wishes.

"Resolved, That the Board of Trustees accord to him the freedom of the alcoves with the customary privileges; that this minute be placed upon the records and that a copy of the same be sent to Mr. Fleischner."

Mr. Fleischner responded with an apt and amusing anecdote and with convincing assurances both of his surprise in the occasion and of his happiness in the lasting regard of his associates. The company then adjourned to the reception room for a brief after-dinner conversation, but a few of the men, veterans from the "old building," remained till a late hour, exchanging the latest news, as well as stories of "auld lang syne," with Mr. Fleischner.

L. E. T.

MEDALS FROM RAVENNA.

On Tuesday morning, December 11, in the Trustees' Room, where the heads of Library departments had been assembled, Mr. L. Melano Rossi, Cavaliere Ufficiale of the Order of the Crown of Italy, presented to Mr. Belden a beautiful bronze medal, struck in commemoration of the six-hundredth anniversary of Dante's death, as a gift from the City of Ravenna. In making the presentation, Commendatore Rossi, who is an honored benefactor of the Library, spoke as follows:

Mr. Belden: Two years ago, in 1921, at Ravenna, I was the only Italian from America officially present at the ceremonies celebrating the Sixth Centenary of Dante's death. Hence I had the opportunity to tell what this historic city, under your initiative, was doing in the Boston Public Library, in commemoration of Italy's foremost representative of world-wide human ideals.

As a first sign of appreciation of your active, earnest work, the Librarian of the Classense asked me to deliver to you a volume published by the City of Ravenna for that event. Meantime it was recognized that you were not merely an admirer of Italian literature, but that, especially at the North End Branch of the Library, in "Little Italy," you continued to make personal efforts to instill into the minds of the Italian immigrants the ideals of their adopted country. In acknowledgment of this the Bronze Medal has been conferred upon you.

I am glad to have been chosen by the City of Ravenna to be the bearer of this Medal and a letter, which I now have great pleasure in presenting to you as the qualified representative of the City of Boston. Boston, that most efficiently and most strenuously, successfully carried out in their fullest significance the doctrines of that Italian, "world-great, not because he is world-wide, but world-deep," of whose remains public-spirited Ravenna for centuries has been the faithful and devoted guardian.

Mr. Rossi then read the following translation of the letter:

Biblioteca Classense
Ravenna.

Illustrious Professor,

Through an inadvertence a specimen of the Dante medal struck on the occasion of the last centenary, was not sent to you at the proper time. I am now very happy to make good the omission, and still more happy to be able to entrust the charge of presentation to Comm. Melano Rossi, who was himself at Ravenna in September, 1921, as the accredited and most worthy representative of the City of Boston and of the Italians of America.

We are certainly not unaware of the work that has proceeded from your initiative and from your institution, for the advancement of Italian culture, and for such a most noble and efficacious work we, as Italians, are grateful. Please, therefore, accept our homage, not only for yourself and for the Library of which you are Director, but also for the illustrious City of Boston, the heart of America, the historic and moral centre of American liberty.

With great respect, for the Mayor,
Andrea Cagnoni,

Deputy Assistant of the City of Ravenna.
Ravenna, July 15, 1923.

An excellent illustration of the medal was published in the *Boston Transcript* on the day of the presentation.

At the same time with the large medal, a replica of smaller size was sent by the City of Ravenna to Miss Mary F. Curley, Librarian of the North End Branch, in appreciation of her sympathetic and understanding service to the Italian users of the Branch Library. Miss Curley's fellow-workers rejoice in this recognition of her service.

HOLLY AND MISTLETOE.

The grouchy old man of fiction, who takes refuge in a public library to escape overwhelming demonstrations of the Christmas spirit, would have been bitterly disillusioned at the Boston Public Library, where, from the beautifully printed greeting to the public in the Entrance Hall to the remotest corner of the book stacks, the holiday spirit was rampant. For instance, if you were the disillusioned grouch and were reading your way through an ancient file of Littell's *Living Age*, you were, more than likely, interrupted by a cluster of bobbed-haired maidens on their way to the Lecture Hall to practice being angels. If you fled to the Statistical Gallery, you encountered Mr. Wheeler and Mr. Graham discussing, in subdued but agitated tones, the mystery of the Third Shepherd's missing crook. All of which foreshadowed the Christmas pageant, "Star Gleams," which was given in the Library on Saturday evening, Dec. 22, and Sunday afternoon, December 23.

This very beautiful pageant was produced under the auspices of the Community Service of Boston. The

staff of the Library furnished most of the cast, with the exception of the three Wise Men, who came from University Heights. Mr. Wheeler's deep voice was most effective in the part of the Prophet. Antiphonal singing of carols by the Library Choristers was beautifully introduced in the pageant. The final tableau of the Nativity was exquisite. Several of the cast also appeared in the production of the pageant which was given on the Common, Christmas Eve.

An unusual feature of Christmas this year was the distribution of greeting cards from the Director and staff to the patrons of the Library, who were surprised and charmed by the attention. There was carol singing by the staff on the Main Stairway, the day before Christmas. People must have remembered how delightful the singing was last year, for groups were standing expectantly an hour before Mr. Appel and his choristers appeared. The program that followed was well worth a wait in the draughty hall.

A short while before Christmas the Library Spirit Club invited its members to a Mistletoe Party. The name alone offered enchanting possibilities, and the party was, we understand, well attended. The Staff Club also had a charming Christmas party, in addition to which there was the Branch Department's hilarious celebration on the noon before the holiday, at which the members of the department presented Miss Guerrier with a beautiful basket of flowers, accompanied by a clever jingle of Christmas wishes.

The decorations throughout the building were unusually fine this year. The two fir trees which figured in the pageant were transplanted to the courtyard, where they now stand gracefully on either side of the fountain.

In the Information Office was a huge wreath, as well as a red candle. The latter was lighted evenings, and was the occasion of numerous queries from the public as to how long it would take to burn, and why, since it was red, it didn't give a red light.

The background of the tree in Stack Four was very ingenious. The skilful fingers of Miss Alice Smithers and her

associates adroitly converted an alcove of the stacks into a charming room, with a crepe-paper-curtained window containing a candle. Obstacles appear to lend an added piquancy to life in this stack, for the young assistants also transformed the sink into an excellent chimney. The tree was most resplendent, and contained Mr. Blaisdell's gift of Christmas candy to each of the young ladies of his department.

In the Children's Room was a very beautiful Nativity scene, the work of Miss Toy and Miss Doyle. In the Teachers' Reference Room a display of holiday books offered suggestions to uncles and aunts uncertain what to give little Oswald and Roberta. Even the elevator was wreathed in red and green.

Members of the staff received an artistic Christmas card from Mr. Belden, a photograph of a corner of the courtyard. As we look at it we realize that we are doing our day's work against a background as beautiful as any of the show places of Europe.

M. E. P.

THE HENRY JAMES BUST.

The Library has lately received by gift from the sculptor, Capt. Francis Derwent Wood, R.A., an exquisite marble bust of Henry James. It was offered through Mr. John S. Sargent, who commissioned the work in 1914, and who considers the bust a fine piece of portraiture. In 1917 Mr. Kinton Parks of Chelsea, England, wrote to the Trustees offering the bust as a gift from Americans in London and English admirers of Henry James, if it should be subscribed for; apparently the required amount was not secured, for the project never came to anything. In the spring of this year Mr. Sargent opened the offer again, saying that Mr. Wood was willing to present the bust to the Boston Public Library. At their meeting of October 26, the Trustees renewed their vote of acceptance, which was communicated to Mr. Wood. The bust has been received and placed in the Trustees' Room until a location shall be made ready for it elsewhere.

A marble copy of the bust was

bought by the Chantrey Trustees and placed in the National Gallery of British Art, Millbank, London, and a bronze replica, subscribed for by residents of Chelsea, neighbors of Henry James, is in the Chelsea Public Library. Mr. Wood writes of it, "The bust took exactly 13 hours to complete and it was at the instigation of Henry James that I ceased working on it. I may say that he himself & his friends considered it an excellent likeness . . . I thought your great library might like to possess a portrait of one of the finest *minds* your country has to be proud of — hence my gift." The bust is said to be "the most remarkable presentation of the famous novelist and sociologist . . . The detail of the work is perfect, the general effect complete and satisfying." H. S.

ROXBURGHE CLUB.

On Wednesday, December 12, the Roxburghe Club, of Roxbury, visited the Library. Mr. Belden received them in the Trustees' Room, where some of the rare and interesting volumes from the Barton-Ticknor Library had been assembled. These were exhibited to the Club members, and the library system, its purpose and its workings, were explained, after which Mr. Chase took the guests on a tour of inspection and information, bringing them at last to the Staff Room, where Miss Macurdy presided over the tea-table, assisted by Miss Jordan and Miss Deery. Miss Ames, of the Fellowes Athenaeum Branch, Miss Morse, of the West Roxbury Branch, Miss Maguire, of the Warren Street Branch, and a number of members of the Central Library staff were present to help entertain the guests.

FOOTBALL.

After serious consideration, the B. P. L. A. A. announces its All-Library football team, basing its selection on the games of the past four months. The players were evenly "Match'tt," sometimes rising to great "Hight," and

have always "Dunn" their best. "Owen" to the keen rivalry, the players "Manning" the team, who have never "Bowen" to defeat, may well "Karrel" in joy.

The games were fought in the "B. A. A. Stadium" (in the back alley) under poor playing conditions. In spite of this, however, the closeness of the competition may be seen from the outcome of the last game, when the Whirlwinds vanquished the Thunderbolts by the remarkably close score of 96 to 52 — touchdowns, not points. This game was singularly free from roughness, everything but blackjacks being prohibited, so that only thirteen were incapacitated. Never did the old cheer of

Suspenders, Rah! Suspenders, Rah!
Hold 'em! Hold 'em! Hah! Hah! Hah!
Team! Team! Team!

ring out more heartily than from the cheering section, consisting of Messrs. Rosenberg, Cray and Guinan, who filled the vast amphitheatre to overflowing.

The support of the Library is needed for necessary equipment. Season tickets for next year are now obtainable through members of the team.

THE TEAM.

ENDS. F. Matchett and Dunn; noted for their "kicking" ability. Dunn, in particular, could kick for five minutes at a stretch.

TACKLES. Cragin and Hight; fearless, reliable players.

GUARDS. J. Matchett and O'Brien; hard, "clean-cut" players.

CENTRE. Ana-polsky; roving girl wonder of the East.

BACKS. Manning, Karrel, Owen, Bowen; all triple-threat men, who could bore a hole through the Rock of Ages.

SUBSTITUTES. Smeedy and Spiegel, who played sensationally in the final game.

LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES.

Mrs. Capewell, librarian of the Mattapan Reading Room, was retired by her own request in September, 1923,

Mrs. Capewell has been in the library service 31 years.

From the time when Mattapan was largely "country," and an uncertain book delivery from Central was maintained with a hired express wagon and a horse, to the present day, when the district is crowded and the daily exchange of books with Central is magnificently handled by motor trucks, Mrs. Capewell has ministered to the needs of Mattapan, and done it single-handed. A pioneer in the true sense of the word (only one other reading-room in the service was similarly managed), she kept her library in order, waited on the public, and administered discipline through all these years, alone.

It is pleasant to hear her say that she asked to be retired because there was no longer any need for her to continue at her post. Her daughter, with whom she makes her home, has for some time urged her to give up work. Better to go while she has health and some energy left for her later years, thinks Mrs. Capewell. Last winter's snow-drifts were very taxing. Yet sometimes, as she sits down of an evening at home and looks at the clock pointing to the old hour for starting out to the Branch, she says to herself, "Why, I could go just as well as not. Why don't I?"

She misses, of course, the tasks she has been used to for thirty-one years, and yet in their place have come leisure, protection and a feeling of comfort.

LIBRARY LIFE wishes that you may long enjoy your pleasant retirement, Mrs. Capewell!

C. H.

In the *Boston Transcript* for Saturday, January 5, Dr. Haraszti, of the Barton Library, published an unusual letter from Mrs. Harriet Beecher Stowe to Mrs. Mary A. Livermore, belonging to the Galatea Collection of the Library, under the title "What Mrs. Stowe thought of George Sand." The letter was accompanied by illustrations and interesting comments, in which the author contrasted George Sand's admiration for Mrs. Stowe with the violent disapproval expressed in the letter.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Associate Editors.

MARION A. MCCARTHY

HARRY W. MATHEWS

WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY

MARY E. PRIM
HARRIET SWIFT

Vol. III, No. 4.

January 15, 1924

FITTING HONORS

During the past month, the Library has rejoiced in the honors that have been paid to Mr. Belden and Mr. Fleischner. Appreciation warms the heart, not only of those who receive it, but also of those who look on; and we are all happy in the words of recognition that have come to these leaders.

The resolution of the Board of Trustees gives due honor to the long and faithful service of Mr. Fleischner. Versatile, resourceful, vigilant, he set his mark on every detail of the work of the Library. Unsparing of himself, keen of vision and firm in grasp, he followed the line of duty wherever it led. The Trustees have done well to express in official form their appreciation of his labors. Mr. Belden's dinner party furnished an appropriate and graceful setting for the presentation of the Trustees' compliment, and gave to Mr. Fleischner's old colleagues an opportunity to join their words of affection to the approval expressed by the governing board of the Library.

The beautiful medals presented to Mr. Belden, as Director of the Library, and to Miss Curley, of the North End Branch, are a peculiarly gracious token of appreciation from overseas. The Dante tablet at the North End Branch had already expressed in enduring form the gratitude of the population of Boston's "Little Italy" for the service given them by the Library. And now, in connection with the anniversary of the death of the greatest Italian, has come from the venerable City of Ra-

venna to the Library an official tribute to the intelligent work of our institution in the service of Italians in America and in extending the knowledge of Dante.

Such evidences of appreciation are the best stimulus to finer effort. We all feel a little taller for the honors paid to the Director and his representative at the North End, and to the man whom we shall always remember as the Assistant Librarian.

Puck, the dainty spirit responsible for placing the ass's head on Bottom's shoulders, and for other airy pranks, was unaccountably omitted from the cast of characters printed in LIBRARY LIFE's report of the Shakespeare Party last month. The editors present their apologies to Miss Ruth Hayes, of the Children's Room, who enacted the part with piquant grace.

WINNING A VISION.

This number of LIBRARY LIFE is full of accounts of Christmas festivities, pageants, club meetings, dinners, and other matters which apparently have little connection with the orthodox function of a library — the provision of books to the community. What excuse for all this activity, apparently to no practical end?

An army depends for its effectiveness upon its *esprit de corps* — that intangible something which gives it unity of purpose and makes it a forcible instrument in the hands of its leader for the service of the country. This power of team-work, this coherence, this fine adjustment of each member of the army to the men with whom he touches shoulders, this ability to sense the great aim in view and to merge oneself in the mass in order to accomplish that aim, is a spiritual quality, and is quite independent of and in addition to any endowment, technical or physical, which the soldier may possess. But it is essential, if each member of the army is to be of full value. It means at once a more eager and intelligent initiative and a more perfect and loyal

subordination to the great purposes of the commander.

So in our Library, *esprit de corps*, coherence, team-work are of prime importance in the achievement of the mission of the institution. And the activities which bring us together in human ways, which help us to know each other and like each other, which make us enjoy doing things together, which give us the rhythm of mass activity, are indispensable means to the great end — the more effective energy of the Library, as an instrument of public service.

In a recent address, Judge Frederick P. Cabot spoke of the success or failure of each child as depending upon his "winning a vision;" he must come, that is, through group activity and comradeship, to realize his power to help in accomplishing something larger than his own interest, and at the same time to learn that the way to a career is to find one's place in relation to the big job and to one's fellows, and to seek to fit into that place as exactly as possible. Such a vision gives meaning to life and work; with it, one is happy and the work gets done; without it, one is restless or aimless and the work lags or is clogged.

The New Year has opened. We have all had a part in the festivities of the holiday season; we rejoice that for the Library it has been so gay a time, and one of such good feeling. As we get better acquainted, let us try to win a common vision of an ideal library, which we may join hands in achieving. There is a place for each one of us in the accomplishment of that ideal, — a place which we shall fill better if we have friends on each side of us. The ranks march and fight best when they are bound together by sympathy and a common point of view. In winning the vision and in working it out, we shall find 1924 a very happy year.

Mr. Francis P. Znotas, one of the founders of the *Library Bugle* and editor of the Junior Page, which was a feature of the first volume of *LIBRARY LIFE*, has left the service of the Library and is now connected with the *Financial*

News. *LIBRARY LIFE* extends its best wishes to Mr. Znotas and prophesies a successful career to his enterprising spirit.

NEWS NOTES.

Miss Nellie A. Stone, Assistant Librarian at Hyde Park for the past twenty-one years, died suddenly on December 21, 1923. The funeral services were held in Christ Church, Hyde Park, on Sunday, December 23. Miss Stone, daughter of Henry B. and Julia A. (Holmes) Stone, was born in Windsor, Vermont, in 1858. After her graduation from Bradford Academy she became librarian of the Windsor Public Library and organist of the local Episcopal Church. She held both these positions until, in 1902, she came to Hyde Park as Assistant Librarian of the Public Library, which, on the annexation of the town to Boston, became the Hyde Park Branch of the Boston Public Library.

Miss Therese Masterson, of the Bindery, who has long been absent from her post on account of illness, received from her associates at Christmas a gift of flowers and candy, with the wish that she might soon return to her old place among them.

LIBRARY LIFE extends the sympathy of the Staff to Miss Margaret Sinclair of the Ordering Department, whose mother died on January 8. Mrs. Sinclair was buried from her old residence, 37 Forest Hills Street, Jamaica Plain.

With the approval of the Board of Trustees, pamphlets containing the "Winning Plan" for the Bok Peace Award, with ballots for voting, are being distributed at the Library and its Branches. Bright red ballot-boxes are provided for receiving the votes.

The engagement of Miss Virginia Mary Tint, of the Registration Department, formerly of the Boylston Station Branch, to Mr. Alexander Joseph Costello, of Hyde Park, was recently an-

nounced. Mr. Costello is connected in an administrative capacity with the Hemenway Estate.

Mr. Belden was one of the contributors to a symposium on the Meaning of History, in the *Boston Traveler*, December 29, 1923.

Miss Guerrier attended the midwinter meeting of the American Library Association Council at Chicago during the first week in January.

Miss Christina ("Tena") Meano, employed for some time at the Bates Hall Centre Desk, resigned from the service of the Library on December 17. Miss Meano will make her home with her family in Los Angeles, California.

To the rapidly increasing list of publications by our former fellow-worker, Theodora Kimball, is now added a "Manual of information on city planning and zoning" (Cambridge. Harvard University Press. 1923). This cannot fail to be of great service to workers in that field, for it contains much information regarding the movement, both here and abroad, together with a bibliography of the subject which is probably the most comprehensive yet made.

Through the courtesy of the Boston Elevated Railway Company, one thousand library posters were carried on the dash-boards of the company's cars for a period of two weeks, just before and after New Year's Day. The posters measured 18 by 24 inches, and read:

Free Books
for YOUR use
at the
PUBLIC
LIBRARY
and its
BRANCHES

Numerous groups of students from various schools and colleges have visited the Library this fall, among them two squads from the Salem Nor-

mal School, under the conduct of Miss Dorothy Smith, and twenty-seven seniors from the Simmons College Library School, accompanied by Miss Florence Blunt.

Mr. Charles I. Newell, formerly employed in the Fine Arts Department, is now living at 36 Wilcock Street, Dorchester. Mr. Newell, whom the Library knew as Israel Neidleman, is married and has two children, a boy and a girl.

For the sake of greater quiet in the Children's Room, the door between the Teachers' Reference Room and the Lecture Hall is now kept locked during all lectures and classes.

Brig. Gen. Sir Percy Sykes, who has been giving a course of Lowell Institute lectures on the subject of Persia, was a recent interested visitor to the Library. Gen. Sykes is the author of the standard history of Persia in two volumes, and of a number of important works on exploration in Persia and the surrounding countries.

The Boston Public Library is now included among the libraries from whose suggestions are selected each month the books to be discussed in the *Atlantic Monthly* "Bookshelf."

Our great fellow-citizen, Franklin, arrived in Philadelphia from Boston in October, 1723. As a memorial of the two-hundredth anniversary of this important occasion, Dill & Collins, paper makers, of Philadelphia, have published a "Pictorial Life of Benjamin Franklin." The pictures were collected by Mr. Walter Rowlands, of the Fine Arts Department of the Library, and represent practically all the available illustrations.

The winter meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club will be held on Friday, January 25, in the auditorium of the State House. The program arranged is an interesting one, and in-

cludes a luncheon at the Twentieth Century Club in Joy Street, and a dinner at the Hotel Bellevue. It is two years since the Club has met in Boston, and the occasion should be a notable one.

PUBLICATIONS.

QUARTERLY BULLETIN.

The *Bulletin* for the last quarter of 1923 is now out, and maintains the high standard of interest to which we have become accustomed. It opens with an article on Theodore Parker, which is accompanied by a portrait of him from the crayon drawing by Seth Cheney.

Recognition of Parker is specially fitting, for to him the Library is indebted for a notably valuable gift. Like Thomas Prince, whose treasures are also in our keeping, Parker began collecting books when a mere boy. His purchase of a Latin dictionary with his own earnings when only twelve years old is perhaps our earliest evidence of a lifelong habit, which resulted in the accumulation of more than 12,000 books and 4,000 pamphlets. This library, which includes many choice works, he bequeathed in 1860 to the Boston Public Library, without restrictions.

Of noteworthy gifts received since the publication of the autumn *Bulletin* we may name 219 volumes of French literature and history from the library of Charles P. Le Bon, long a teacher of French in the English High School; two volumes of material in manuscript and print relating to the recruiting of Massachusetts troops in the Civil War, given by Mrs. Helen M. Peirce; and, from Miss Lilian Whiting, 226 manuscript letters to be added to the Kate Field Memorial Collection.

Captain F. D. Wood's gift of his bust of Henry James is spoken of elsewhere; a beautiful illustration of the bust is printed in the *Bulletin*.

An elaborate index to the poems of Robert William Service, compiled by Michael J. Conroy, of the Reference Department, with the usual lists of new books, and various announcements, make up a full number. M. A. T.

TEN-BOOK LISTS.

In the Ten-book Lists, the fact of selection has been emphasized through the limitation to ten titles, but it is gratifying to note how seldom a really excellent work has been excluded. The following lists have appeared since the last record in *LIBRARY LIFE*: Recent Verse, by Theodosia E. Macurdy; The Shakespeare First Folio, 1623-1923, by Mary A. Tenney; Textile Manufacture, by George S. Maynard; Oriental Rugs, by Walter Rowlands; Recent Methods in Education, by Alice M. Jordan; The Monroe Doctrine, by Horace L. Wheeler; The Appreciation of Music, by Richard G. Appel; The Boston Tea-Party, by L. E. Taylor. The list on Textile Manufacture was prepared for the occasion of the International Textile Exposition, held in Mechanics Building, Oct. 29 - Nov. 3; that on Recent Methods in Education was published for American Education Week, Nov. 18-24.

The Ten-book List will no longer appear every week, but will be issued from time to time as a guide to topics of current interest, or in relation to special occasions, such as anniversary celebrations and meetings of associations.

CHRISTMAS AT THE BRANCHES.

ANDREW SQUARE: The staff of the Andrew Square Branch had a very enjoyable Christmas party a few days before the holiday. The lunchroom was appropriately decorated, refreshments were served, favors distributed, and gifts exchanged.

BRIGHTON: A Christmas Eve dinner party was given by the librarian of the Brighton Branch to her day, evening and Sunday assistants. The affair took place in the reference room at the library, which was artistically decorated for the occasion. In the red-draped windows hung large laurel wreaths, the candlesticks bore candles of red, and the Jack Horner pie which formed the centrepiece held golden greetings for the day and evening staff and silver pencils for the Sunday as-

sistants. Old-fashioned bouquets of candy were the favors.

Dinner was served at six o'clock, with covers laid for eleven. During the evening, gifts were presented by the assistants to their hostess.

CHARLESTOWN: The jolliest kind of a Christmas party was held by the staff and extras in the Lecture Hall of the Charlestown Branch, on Monday evening, Dec. 17, at 9 p.m. Gifts were exchanged, an original poem by Joseph Doran was read, and Italian songs were sung by Miss Nazzaro, accompanied by Misses Tint and Boudreau. The entire staff joined in Christmas carols. Refreshments were served and the party ended to the strains of Auld Lang Syne.

CODMAN SQUARE: Codman Square had a Christmas tree this year. The staff clubbed together and bought the tree, the tinsel and the icicles. Even in the confusion of putting in the new counter, which is a real Christmas present to the Branch, the tree made the library more cheerful and festive, and seemed to be enjoyed by the adult patrons quite as much as by the children.

EAST BOSTON: At 9 o'clock, when the last book had been put on the shelf, the guests assembled in the Children's Room. "This is no party," we were forced to exclaim; "this is a family reunion." For all of the Branch's children, past and present, who were able to come, had gathered for the occasion, from Mr. Hankard, the library "Cop," to Miss Wing, who retired in June and is now a lady of leisure.

By the fireplace stood the glittering tree, around which the kindergarten children had sung carols just before Christmas; and the fireplace held a wonderful scene, the artistic work of Miss Bickford, which for two weeks gave delight to the hearts of children old and young. It is winter in the forest. The snow lies thick on the ground. The moon is shining through the pine trees and on a little cabin, in which, as everyone knows, are expectant children dreaming of bulging stockings. Sitting in his sleigh, driving swiftly the magic reindeer, is that

delightful old fellow "Santa Claus" carrying presents for good children.

But now to the Festal Board! — which was, alas, nothing but the library table. But who cares? Toasts were proposed with Za-Rex. And ice cream and cake took the place of stuffed turkey and "fixins." Each guest found at his place a present intended to fill a needed want. One little "extra," who is planning to study medicine, received a toy automobile in which she can pay calls when she becomes a full-fledged doctor. The library "cop," who has read everything worth reading and who often complains that "there are no more good books," received a book to his liking.

Then everybody danced to those well-known Christmas Carols, "Yes, we have no bananas," and "Last night on the back porch." As the hour grew late, reluctant "Good-nights" were said, and Happy New Year greetings echoed through the room. The empty library was left in breath-taking darkness. In the fireplace the snow gleamed white, and Santa, winking a sleepy eye, took a much-needed nap.

C. B.

JEFFRIES POINT: On Christmas Eve a pleasant supper was enjoyed by members of the staff at Jeffries Point. During the supper they had the pleasure of hearing the carol singers, who stopped outside the library.

MT. BOWDOIN: Time never dragged at the Mt. Bowdoin Branch as it did on the afternoon of Christmas Eve. It just seemed as if 4.30 p.m., the hour scheduled for Santa's arrival, would never come.

A tree graced the table in the "work-room-restroom," but was almost hidden from view by the many packages surrounding it. Assistants alternated at the desks, thus giving everyone a chance to receive her gifts from Santa, as well as to partake of a luncheon served under difficulties. The remainder of the afternoon was spent in admiring the gifts and in thanking the donors.

Hemlock wreaths and an attractive display of books for Christmas reading permitted the public to share in the Christmas spirit.

NORTH END: At North End the Christmas festivities were in charge of Miss Morrissey and Miss Pepe, who prepared for the entire staff a delicious luncheon, which was served in the club rooms, tastefully decorated for the occasion. Gifts were exchanged, and Miss Cella and most of the staff joined in the singing of Christmas songs.

ORIENT HEIGHTS: On Christmas Eve there was held a reunion of all the Orient Heights staff of the last three years. Supper was spread in the workroom of the library, and with dessert came Jack Horner pie. The workroom was rather close quarters, and the table was hardly big enough to hold all who came, but the Christmas spirit was not lacking, and handcaps only added to the merriment.

PARKER HILL: In one of the two large windows at Parker Hill were placed new adult books, together with juvenile books in attractive covers, lent from the Children's Reference Collection. The snow scene in the other window was most attractive, and was never without many admirers, both old and young. A country house, hills of snow, a frozen pond, and a great many fir trees, made the setting for Santa Claus and his reindeer.

ROSLINDALE: In the hall of the Municipal Building in which the Roslindale Branch has its quarters, a large Christmas tree had been beautifully decorated by the Knights of Columbus, for the distribution of presents to the little ones. This tree was still standing in all its glory when the Branch staff had its celebration.

There was to be a grab. All gathered around the tree, and each person was blindfolded in turn and with a long ruler pointed to a package, which she was obliged to take. When each bundle was opened, there were many peals of laughter. Candy was distributed and all hands left the party feeling happy and wishing each other the joys of the season.

SOUTH BOSTON: At the South Boston Branch, the presence of the Christmas spirit was manifest in the decorations of the Children's Room. Red ropes were

hung from two posts at the entrance, on which was suspended a placard containing the greeting, "Merry Christmas," and later, "Happy New Year." In the corner of the room was a good-sized Christmas tree, brilliantly decorated with shining ornaments and glittering snow. At the foot of the tree was Santa himself with an outstretched hand and a smile for all the children who passed in and out. Around the room were pictures of the Nativity, The night before Christmas, etc.

On the Saturday before Christmas, the staff had a get-together luncheon party, which was a very festive occasion, promoting sociability and good fellowship.

SOUTH END: At the South End Branch wreaths on the wall, Christmas posters in the Children's Room, and a beautiful poinsettia, the gift of friends at the South End House, visibly expressed the spirit of Christmas. Each crimson starry blossom seemed to breathe a welcome and to whisper a soft "Merry Christmas" to the passer-by.

A delightful Christmas party, given by Miss Sheridan to her staff, made the first Christmas of the South End Branch in its new quarters a memorable one. In a secluded corner of the Children's Room was a table artistically arranged by the two clever juniors as a complete surprise to the seniors. A tiny Christmas tree adorned the centre of the table, delicious ice cream, cake and chocolate were served, and there were gifts of candy and favors for each one. Over all, the candles shed their soft flickering light. Truly "Merry Christmas" had come to the South End Branch, and each heart echoed Tiny Tim's prayer, "God bless us all, every one!"

WARREN STREET: Christmas at the Warren Street Branch was ushered in by the most delightful and wholly unexpected party, given to the staff by the librarian and her first assistant. The miniature tree, the presents, and the royal refreshments were greatly enjoyed and fully appreciated.

The library itself was at its gayest in holiday dress of holly, crepe paper,

wreaths and pictures. For the children, Christmas stories were told, and for both children and grown-ups, special shelves of Christmas books were reserved.

WEST END: Many years have passed since Christmas was observed to any great extent at the West End Library, — perhaps not since the days when the white-haired Dr. Bartol preached "Peace on earth, good will toward men" from the pulpit of the old West Church, which is now the library building.

This year, as the Christmas season drew near, Miss Goldstein said, "Why not have a celebration at the West End and make it a real Christmas?" This suggestion was received with much enthusiasm by the staff, and proceedings began. Through the courtesy of Mrs. Eva Whiting White, the Branch was able to obtain twelve laurel wreaths and a big tree prettily decorated. The Red Stocking Club added four small trees and five more wreaths. The members of the staff made bows of red crepe paper for the wreaths, and Mr. Hardy and the boys fastened them to the fine old colonial pillars which offer such an opportunity for decoration.

Two of the small trees were placed just at the entrance to the main reading room, and the other two stood against the pillars directly opposite. At the top of each, a gaily dressed Santa Claus stood like a sentinel. The real Christmas tree was placed on one of the tables in the centre of the room, and as one entered the building it seemed like walking into a veritable little forest of Christmas blaze and beauty.

The day before Christmas, Miss Whitney, who worked at West End last summer, dropped in on her way to the country, bringing a great bunch of holly. This, arranged in vases and placed in conspicuous places, added much to the already festive appearance of the handsome room. The patrons of the Branch, both young and old, seemed to enjoy the decorations immensely. On the whole, Christmas at the West End was a great success.

G. W.

WEST ROXBURY: West Roxbury had

a pleasant, happy time at its Christmas party. A tree was placed on the central table in the children's room, and as there was a light directly above it, it was especially attractive at night, with the brightly colored ornaments and glittering silver rain. A small angel reposed on the very top branch and smiled down on the children.

A very interesting collection of pictures was displayed, comprising a history of the customs of Christmas. Mrs. Powers told stories from "Colonel Carter's Christmas," about the lighting of the tapers on the little Christmas tree. Then a pretty picture of oriental life was disclosed to the children in "The Camel of Bethlehem," followed by intimate bits of home life in "Understood Betsey" and "Peter and Wendy."

The week of festivities passed all too quickly, and once again the decorations have been put away, and the Christmas books are back in their regular places on the shelves, waiting for the demands of 1924.

The Christmas observances at Allston, Hyde Park, Jamaica Plain, Mt. Pleasant, Roxbury and Roxbury Crossing were confined to the display of appropriate books and pictures, and the hanging of wreaths and other greens.

IMPROVEMENTS.

Work on the new stacks in the Annex is progressing rapidly. The steel work is all in place, except for the shelves, and a start has been made in laying the floors.

The Industrial Arts Reference Alcove has been greatly improved by the placing of a new drop-light to take the place of the three old lights, which were never satisfactory. Not only are the shelves brilliantly lighted, but the balcony above is brought into view and its usefulness greatly increased.

The installation of a new ventilating system for the Lecture Hall is under way. Two newly renovated lavatories have been opened, the one for women employees and the public lavatory for men, where great improvements have been made. Workmen are now in

possession of the room for men employees.

The service stairs are also receiving attention; new treads are being laid to replace the old slate steps, which in less than thirty years of use have become so worn as to be unsafe. No more eloquent witness to the steady wear and tear of library work could be asked for.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

A special meeting of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association was held in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library, Tuesday, January 8, 1924.

The following amendments to the Constitution were adopted:

Article V, Section 4 (d), line 4, after the word "office," cancel the rest of the paragraph and insert the following:

At the annual meeting, nominations may be made from the floor for offices and places on committees for which no candidates are named on the ballot. Offices and places on committees to which no one is elected shall be filled by appointment after the election by the President and confirmed by a majority of the Board of Directors. (Article VI, Section 1 d).

Votes cast for persons not regularly nominated shall not be counted.

Article VI, Section 3 (e). Substitute the following:

To prepare notices of all meetings of the Association and to send a copy for posting to a designated member of the Association in each Department and Branch at least one week previous to the day set for the meeting. (Article VI, Section 6, k 4).

Article VI, Section 6 (k). Add:

(4) For posting in his Department or Branch all official notices of the Association.

Article IX, Section 2 (b). Substitute the following:

If in any year the state of the treasury is such as to make it expedient, the Board of Directors shall recommend to the Association at its annual meeting a sum less than One Hundred Dollars, as a death benefit, not to be exceeded during the ensuing year.

Article IX, Section 3 (a), last sentence. Substitute the following:

No member shall receive sick benefits for more than thirteen weeks in any consecutive twelve months.

Article IX, Section 4, line 4, after the word, "1922," add:
or the provisions of any retirement or pension act of the City of Boston, the Commonwealth of Massachusetts, or the United States, of America.

Article IX, Section 4. Add:

(b) A retired member who does not state his option within sixty days after retirement shall lose membership from the date of retirement and shall receive from the General Fund a sum equal to one half the total dues paid by him, from which sum shall be deducted all amounts which he has received as benefits.

The special meeting was followed by a meeting adjourned from October 2, 1923. The President reported that Mr. Walter Rowlands, of the Fine Arts Department, had been appointed to fill the unexpired term of Mr. James W. Kenney on the Board of Directors; also, that Mr. James Reay had been appointed to fill the vacancy on the Post-Card Committee.

Miss Mary McDonough, of the Children's Room, Miss Mary E. Prim, of the Information Office, Miss Florence E. Sullivan, of Bates Hall Centre Desk, Mr. William Graham, of the Catalogue Department, and Mr. Emil Hofman, of the Printing Department, were appointed members of the Entertainment Committee.

The Association then proceeded to the nomination of officers for the year beginning April 1, 1924; the following persons were nominated:

President: William C. Maiers, Ordering Department; James P. Mooers, Bindery.

Vice-President: Frank H. Chase, Reference Department.

Secretary: George W. Gallagher, Bindery. Treasurer: Frank C. Blaisdell, Issue Department.

Financial Secretary: Morris J. Rosenberg, Statistical Department.

Board of Directors: James J. Kelley, Eng. and Jan. Department.

Relief Committee: Harry C. Mathews, Bates Hall Catalogue; Abraham Snyder, Catalogue Department; Mary Reynolds, Issue Department; Marion McCarthy, Branch Department; James S. Kennedy, Shelf Department; William C. Mulloney, Bates Hall Centre Desk.

Welfare Committee: George H. Connor, Shelf Department; Joseph A. Crowley, Patent Room; James P. J. Gannon, Bindery; Margaret C. Sheridan, South End Branch; John Lawrence, Eng. and Jan. Department; John. Hemsworth, Bindery.

The President of the Association deserves cordial congratulations on the skilful manner in which, without a hint of the "steamroller," the varied business of two meetings was finished, to the satisfaction of everyone, in twenty-seven minutes.

In the list of Association representatives published in *LIBRARY LIFE* last month, two names were accidentally transposed: Miss Morrissey represents the Association at the North End Branch, and Miss Donovan at Roslindale. Miss Gertrude Leufgren has been appointed as the representative of the Association in the Hyde Park Branch, in place of Miss Stone, whose death occurred on December 21.

THE SICK LIST.

Mr. Mooers of the Relief Committee reports the illness of Miss Catherine Loughman, of Upham's Corner Branch, and of Mr. Joseph Ward, of the Shelf Department. Miss Mary C. Sheridan, of the Issue Department, Miss Therese Masterson and Miss Mary E. Dornan, of the Bindery, and Miss Margaret Rooney, of Brighton Branch, are still on the sick list.

LIBRARY LIFE is glad to note that Miss Annie I. Fuller, of the Branch Department, has returned to her post.

LIBRARY SPIRIT CLUB.

There was a representative gathering of the Library Spirit Club on Friday evening, December 21, in the Staff Lecture Room. A short business meeting preceded a most enjoyable musical program, consisting of selections given by Mr. Joseph Hopkinson on the piano and by Mr. Arthur Buckley on the violin. Dancing followed until 9.30, when refreshments were announced. Miss Florence F. Richards, the kindly chaperon of the evening, presided at the tastefully decorated table in the lunch room. The committee of arrangements consisted of Miss Edith Daly, Miss Annie Brennan, Miss Alice Kernan, and Mr. Daniel Bowen.

THE STAFF CLUB'S CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Christmas celebrations in the Library reached a climax on Thursday evening, December 27, when the Staff Club held its annual Christmas party

in the Staff Lecture Room. A large assembly gathered to enjoy a program which began with a group of old-time carols sung by a number of the Library Choristers under the direction of Mr. Appel. Next came Mr. John J. Cronan, who was accorded a warm reception when he rose to entertain his audience with a new Irish Christmas story by Ruth Sawyer. For an encore he told a thrilling bandit tale, which we predict will delight the hearts of many future "story" groups. Miss Olympia Cella, of the North End Branch, whose sweet voice has enriched our Christmas parties for several years, sang "O Holy Night" and "Non e ver." The part of Santa Claus was enacted by Mr. Lucien E. Taylor, who extracted from a mysterious brown pack which protruded from a chimney, a little gift for each member present. From drifts of wrapping paper emerged diaries, shopping lists, baskets of candy, tiny elephant teapots, and a variety of articles useful or ornamental.

A view of the lunch room, where refreshments were served, evoked much praise for the decorations which Miss Curley had lavished upon the lighting fixtures and the enticing table. In feasting and in social intercourse the moments flew by, and all too soon the Staff Club's Christmas party was but a happy memory.

To the joint efforts of the members of the Club in the North End Branch and the South Boston Branch, who comprised the committee, may be credited a very successful party. Miss Mary F. Curley was chairman.

The topic of the next meeting of the Staff Club, to be held in the Staff Lecture Room on Tuesday evening, January 29, has been announced as "Kodaks as we went — Staff travels." The purpose of the meeting will be the illustration of vacation experiences of the members of the Club. Those who have interesting snapshots taken during the past two seasons are invited to bring them to the meeting, prepared to describe them briefly. A reflectoscope will be provided, in order that the pictures may be enjoyed by all. The meeting promises to be one of unusual interest.

News Notes

on

Government Publications

Edited by Edith Guerrier

Bulletin No. 26

January 15, 1924

Supplement to "Library Life," Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

QUESTIONS AND ANSWERS

On Senate Bill 557, introduced by Senator McLean of Connecticut, Dec. 6, 1923, and House Bill 633, introduced by Representative Dallinger, Dec. 5, 1923, "To provide for a Library Information Service in the Bureau of Education."

1. Why is a Library Information Service needed?

To enable the libraries to inform the people of these United States with regard to the functions and achievements of their Government.

2. Why are libraries especially fitted to place Government printed matter before the people?

Because they are supported by the taxes of the people for the benefit of the people, and are non-partisan in their attitude. Because they were established and are maintained for the purpose of providing the people of the United States with education and information in the form of printed matter.

3. Is it the business of a library to act as an exponent of the Government to the people?

If a library's functions include that of making information of national import easily accessible to the public, it is.

4. About how many libraries are there in the United States?

The last available figures gave about 18,000 public, school and society libraries in the United States.

5. How many people use libraries?

At a conservative estimate, about 15,000,000.

6. How many publications are issued yearly by the Government Printing Office?

As many as 300,000,000 copies of official publications have been issued in a year.

7. What printed matter does the Federal Government issue which is of interest to the people?

Reports of the work of the various departments, bureaus, services and offices. Lists of printed publications issued and of those available. Publications dealing with special subjects of interest to professional and business people — farmers, housewives, working people. In short, the Federal Government has something, somewhere, of interest to every citizen of the United States.

8. How is this matter at present distributed?

a. To depository libraries.—About 418 depository libraries, which have been designated by congressmen, are privileged to receive one copy of each publication issued by the Government Printing Office, excepting confidential matter, congressional bills and hearings.

b. Through Congressional quotas.—Congressmen have quotas of certain printed matter which they distribute as they see fit.

c. Special lists in departments.—Each department maintains lists of persons interested in the various subjects treated in its publications.

d. Individual requests.—Individual requests are addressed to the bureaus by which the desired publications are issued. If the request is approved, an order is sent to the Superintendent of Documents to forward the publication.

e. Sale.—For all printed matter with a price, application is made to the Superintendent of Documents.

9. How do libraries, not designated depositories, get information or printed matter?

1. They cannot get it unless they know which of the 200 or more Gov-

ernment offices furnishes the information required.

2. By applying to the office issuing it, if it is free; by buying it from the Superintendent of Documents if it has a price?

10. Is much of this matter wasted?

The Joint Committee on Printing once estimated the waste to amount to nearly \$1,000,000 a year. Why? (1) Because much of the printed matter — being of current interest — is at least a month out of date when it is received. (2) Because much of it is sent to people who are not interested in it. (3) Because it is not in any way advertised.

11. Should not all this printed matter have a price?

No. Why not? Because it is good economy for the Government to educate the people. Certain selected publications should be automatically distributed to publicly used and publicly supported institutions qualified to disseminate such information successfully.

12. How will the proposed Library Information Service result in bringing Government publications to the attention of the people?

By acting as a Central Government Information Office and Clearing House between Government offices and the libraries, which are the people's own educational extension centers. The office would prepare a card catalogue of the libraries of the United States with concise information concerning the communities in which they are located; this list would be divided and subdivided in order to put into operation a selective distribution scheme. It would establish and maintain contact with all Government offices. It would maintain a subject card catalogue, giving sources of information. It would send out frequent notes of current publications.

13. In what department will such an office function most satisfactorily?

In the Department of the Interior — Bureau of Education. Why? Because it is an education extension service working through educational institutions.

14. Why could this service not be carried on in the Superintendent of Documents office?

Because it is not the function of that

office to conduct educational extension work.

15. What is the function of that office?

To sell printed matter with a price, and to attend to its legitimate business of shipping printed matter so that such matter will not arrive weeks and even months late.

16. Why does not this service belong in the Library of Congress?

It is not the function of that library to carry on an educational extension information service of the character outlined.

17. Is there anything now in operation corresponding to the suggested service?

No. Libraries have had little encouragement to use Government printed matter, because (1) It is almost never received while it is still current. (2) It is impossible for a librarian at a distance to know which one of 200 or more bureaus to address for information on a given subject. (3) There is no up-to-date list of printed matter issued. (4) There is no library service in the Government with a director in charge, who understands the needs and possibilities of libraries and the kinds of printed matter which would be of use to them if properly advertised.

At the midwinter meeting of the Council of the American Library Association on January 2, 1923, a resolution was passed (for the fourth time, by the way) endorsing the bill to provide for a Library Information Service in the Bureau of Education.

The text of this bill, which was introduced by Senator McLean in the Senate (S. 557) on December 6, 1923, and in the House (H.R. 633) on December 5, by Representative Dallinger, reads as follows:

A bill to provide for a library information service in the Bureau of Education.

Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled, That there is hereby created in the Bureau of Education a service to be called the Division of Library Service, which shall be under the charge of a director, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, and who shall receive a salary of \$5,000 per annum. There shall also be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior the following assistants and their employees at the salaries designated: One assistant director, at \$4,000 per

annum; one chief clerk, at \$2,500 per annum; one stenographer, at \$2,000 per annum; and in addition thereto such other employees as the Secretary of the Interior shall deem necessary; Provided, That not more than \$10,000 annually shall be expended for salaries of experts, assistants, and employees outside the District of Columbia, and for travel, stationery, printing, and binding, unless previously authorized by law. It shall be the purpose and duty of such division to increase the efficiency of American libraries by providing current information concerning Government activities. It shall collect and organize information regarding printed matter issued by the Federal Government, and shall make available to the libraries of the United States the sources of such information. It shall provide digests of this material, with suggestions as to its use, in order that such material may be made quickly available to users of libraries.

The Secretary of the Interior is authorized to make all necessary rules and regulations for carrying out the purposes of this Act.

The need for this Central Clearing House for Government Information has been set forth many times in many publications. The *Boston Transcript*, *Herald*, *Globe*, *Post*, *Monitor*, and *Advertiser*, the *New York Times* and *Tribune*, the *Hartford Courant*, the *New Haven Journal-Courier*, the *Chicago Tribune*, the *Columbus (Ohio) Dispatch*, the *Washington Herald*, and other papers, have had extended articles and editorials in support of the bill.

On January 14, 1921, Senator McLean gave a comprehensive explanation of the need for the proposed service, how it would function, and why it should be attached to the Bureau of Education. Excerpts from this speech follow. The full text will be found in the *Congressional Record* for January 14, 1921 (vol. 60, part 2, 66th Congress, 3d Session).

Mr. President, the libraries are especially fitted to place Government printed matter before the people, because they are supported by the taxes of the people for the benefit of the people, and are non-partisan in their attitude, because they were established and are maintained for the purpose of providing the people of the United States with printed matter along educational and informational lines.

It is a library's function to make printed information of national import easily accessible to the public. The proposed service is expected to serve as a clearing house through which information in hundreds of offices will be made available to librarians who have at present no satisfactory means of knowing in which of these hundreds of offices a particular piece of information is located. It is also expected to prepare comprehensive digests of current printed matter issued by the United States Government of

which Librarians should be informed. This service would benefit the Government, the libraries, and the people.

This service is not a duplication of any of the various information and publicity services scattered through the departments. Each one of these services issues highly specialized information along the line of the work carried on by the bureau in which it is located. The proposed library information office should serve as a library clearing house for specialized information prepared by such offices.

Through this clearing house specialized information would be made available to libraries, and through libraries to those who need it and do not at present know where to find it. Specialized services will always be needed in those departments of the Government which deal with matters concerning the daily lives and business of the citizens of these United States, but, as they are carried on at a great expense for the benefit of the people, it is fitting that the results achieved should reach as great a number of the people as possible through such a central information service as the one proposed.

I wish to emphasize the fact that this bill is not intended to create a demand for further output of free printed matter, but to provide for an economical placement of that printed matter already authorized, of which, according to Senator Smoot's statement, from \$500,000 to \$1,000,000 worth is wasted yearly. It is probable that a demand would be created for printed matter with a price. The cost of this material is so much less than that of works published by private firms that librarians would undoubtedly welcome the opportunity to purchase publications of which they were intelligently informed.

Mr. President, as to the cost, the facts gathered from the last report of the Public Printer are as follows: The cost of such informational publications as we have been referring to was during the fiscal year ending June 30, 1920, over \$6,800,000. Four hundred and seventy-six depository libraries received \$105,000 worth of publications. This means an automatic distribution to libraries of about one sixty-fifth of the value of the entire output. If even one twenty-fifth instead of one sixty-fifth could be intelligently distributed to and properly administered by libraries, the supporters of this bill believe an extended and intelligent use of Government publications would result.

The Committees on Education of both House and Senate have favorably reported the bill after listening to discussions covering twelve printed pages. The American Library Association has twice indorsed the bill and urged its passage. The League of Women Voters and numerous civic organizations have indorsed it. Two Secretaries of the Interior Department have signified their unqualified approval of the service after a thorough examination of the plans proposed, and the Vice-President elect has written on Dec. 13, 1919, with regard to it, as follows:

It is to be sincerely hoped that Congress can at an early date pass the measure empowering the Interior Department, through the Bureau of Edu-

cation, to establish an office which will make it possible to open this service to the public.

If the education of the American people with regard to the functions and actions of their Government is an economy measure, this bill is one of the most economical measures ever reported by congressional committees. Even if it must be considered purely from a dollars-and-cents point of view, it will stand the test. Wasted goods to the value of nearly \$1,000,000 are a dead loss. Senator Smoot recently said, 'It would be more accurate to estimate the waste in Government publications to be nearly a million dollars a year.'

The American people support expensive research sections in practically every department of the Government. It is their right to have access to the results of this work which appear in printed form. It is, therefore, not ruthless elimination of valuable publications that is required, but educational advertising and intelligent placing of this printed matter.

Moreover, the bill will be a great time-saver for Members of Congress in that their constituents who want public documents will soon acquire the habit of securing the information desired at the local libraries instead of writing to Members of the House and Senate, and my hope is that for this reason and the many other reasons which I have stated, the Senate will take the bill up for action in the near future."

This bill was first introduced in June, 1919. (See hearing on H.R. 6870, Aug. 26, 1919, with report by Hon. F. W. Dallinger, Sept. 10, 1919; and hearing on S. 2457, Sept. 5, 1919, with report by Hon. David I. Walsh, Sept. 4, 1919.)

The proposed service is needed now more than ever before and the following librarians, educators, writers and business men are on record as favoring its passage. It was endorsed by Secretary Lane of the Interior Department at the time it was introduced, and later on by his successor, Secretary Paine.

Ahern, Mary Eileen, Editor *Public Libraries*.
Arnett, Lonna D., Librarian University of West Virginia.

Arnold, Sarah Louise, Dean Emeritus Simmons College.

Baldwin, Clara F., Minnesota Lib. Com.

Belden, C. F. D., Boston Pub. Lib.

Bishop, W. W., Librarian University of Michigan.

Bloomfield, Daniel, Editor *Bloomfield's Labor Digest*.

Bloomfield, Meyer, Editor *Industrial Relations*.

Bostwick, Arthur E., St. Louis Pub. Lib.

Brigham, Herbert O., Rhode Island State Lib.

Brown, Ruth L., Vermont Lib. Com.

Buckhous, Gertrude, Librarian Univ. of Montana.

Coleman, Geo. W., Pres. Babson Institute.

Connolly, Msgr. Arthur T., Pres. Board of Trustees, Boston Pub. Lib.

Countryman, Gratia A., Minneapolis Pub. Lib.

Crimmins, Nora, Chattanooga Pub. Lib.

Currier, T. Franklin, Harvard Univ. Lib.

Dana, John Cotton, Newark Pub. Lib.

Davis, Owen S., Laconia (N. H.) Pub. Lib.

Doren, Electra C., Dayton (Ohio) Pub. Lib.

Duncan, Eleanor, *Library Journal*.

Eastman, Linda A., Cleveland Pub. Lib.

Eldridge, Edw. H., Director School of Secretarial Science, Simmons College.

Foote, W. W., State College, Pullman, Wash.

Godard, George S., Connecticut State Lib.

Guerrier, Edith, Boston Pub. Lib.

Hadley, Chalmers, Denver Pub. Lib.

Hallowell, John W., formerly Assistant to the Secretary of the Interior.

Hebard, Grace R., Prof. Political Economy, Univ. of Wyoming.

Heinz, Howard, Pittsburgh, Pa.

Hill, Frank P., Brooklyn Pub. Lib.

Hurley, Edward N., Ex-Chairman U. S. Shipping Board.

Jennings, Judson T., Seattle Pub. Lib.

Johnston, W. D., American Lib. in Paris.

Jones, E. Louise, Massachusetts Lib. Com.

Koopman, H. L., Librarian Brown Univ.

Kirstein, Louis E., Trustee, Boston Pub. Lib.

Lee, George W., Librarian Stone & Webster

Lefavour, Henry, Pres. Simmons College.

Lester, C. B., Wisconsin Free Lib. Com.

Luttrell, Estelle, Librarian Univ. of Arizona.

Lyman, Mrs. Jessie Woodford, Head Documents Div., Chicago Pub. Lib.

Marvin, Cornelia, Oregon State Lib.

McGowan, Samuel P., Admiral, formerly Postmaster-General of the Navy.

Perry, Everett R., Los Angeles Pub. Lib.

Peters, Andrew J., ex-Mayor of Boston.

Prall, Beatrice, Little Rock (Ark.) Pub. Lib.

Price, Anna M., Illinois Lib. Com.

Rathrock, Mary U., Knoxville Pub. Lib.

Rawson, Fannie G., Kentucky State Lib. Com.

Redstone, E. H., Massachusetts State Lib.

Reeder, Chas. W., Ref. Librarian, Ohio State Univ.

Ripley, Wm. Z., Prof. of Economics, Harvard Univ.

Rockwell, Helen E., Librarian, Extension Div., Harrisburg, Pa.

Rush, Charles E., Indianapolis Pub. Lib.

Spencer, John D., Pres. Board of Trustees, Salt Lake City Pub. Lib.

Sprague, Johanna, Salt Lake City Pub. Lib.

Stelle, Helen V., Tampa (Fla.) Pub. Lib.

Strohm, Adam, Detroit Pub. Lib.

Sweet, M. Belle, Librarian University of Idaho.

Tobitt, Edith, Omaha Pub. Lib.

Tyler, Alice S., Director Library School, Western Reserve Univ.

Vitz, Carl, Toledo Pub. Lib.

West, Elizabeth R., Texas State Lib.

Wheeler, H. A., Union Trust Co., Chicago.

White, Mrs. True Worthy, Civic Director, Mass. League of Women Voters.

Wilbur, Ray L., Pres. Leland Stanford Univ.

Wright, Agnes, Wyoming State Lib.

Wyer, James I., Director New York State Library School.

Wynkoop, Asa, State Inspector of Public Libraries, Albany, N. Y.

Yust, Wm. L., Rochester (N. Y.) Pub. Lib.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume III, No. 5

February 15, 1924

CONTENTS.

TICKNOR MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB	49	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON	54
APPETITES AND ORIENTALS	50	MOVING DAYS IN THE STACKS	55
MEN AND WOMEN	51	MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB	55
EDITORIALS	52	STAFF CLUB	56
NEWS NOTES	53	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	56
FRANKLIN EXHIBITION	54		

THE TICKNOR MODERN LANGUAGE CLUB OF DARTMOUTH COLLEGE.

The following sketch of the Ticknor Club was written at the suggestion of one of the editors of *LIBRARY LIFE* by Associate Professor Howard F. Dunham of Dartmouth College.

In December, 1815, George Ticknor in one of his letters to his father mentioned the fact that he and his friend Everett had been taken into the only club in Goettingen. "Its name," he added, "is The Literary Club, and, like all literary clubs that ever survived the frosts of the first winter, its chief occupation is to eat suppers. . . . As many of the members as like — for there is no compulsion — meet once a fortnight at eight o'clock, eat a moderate supper, drink a little wine, laugh and talk two or three hours, and then go home."

When, in December, 1900, a group of members of the faculty at Hanover, New Hampshire, gathered to organize a literary society, it was voted to call it The Ticknor Modern Language Club of Dartmouth College, in honor of George Ticknor, who had graduated from Dartmouth in 1807. The club has eaten very few suppers, and has probably consumed even less wine than was drunk at Goettingen. Perhaps there has also been too little laughter; some critics think that the

club has taken itself too seriously. Nevertheless, The Ticknor Club, as it is commonly called, has flourished for nearly a quarter of a century, and is to-day one of Dartmouth's firmly established and worth-while organizations.

The object of the Ticknor Club is to further the study of modern languages and literatures in Dartmouth College, and to afford to its members opportunity for presenting the results of their special readings and investigations. It has about thirty active members, mostly teachers in the departments of English, Romance Languages, and German, although it has attracted to its fellowship men from the departments of Fine Arts, Music, Philosophy, History, and the Classics. At each meeting one of the members reads a paper, after which there is always a general discussion. Frequently book reviews are given. Once a year or so an evening is set aside for the discussion of academic problems of the moment.

Some years a definite topic of study has been chosen, and most of the papers and discussions of the year have been based upon it. This winter's program calls for a study of modern theories of criticism and aesthetics.

Thanks to the courtesy of officials of the Boston Public Library, the secretary of the club enjoyed recently the privilege of wandering through the stacks in the Ticknor Room and of examining at leisure many of the 6000

and more volumes of this rare Spanish and Portuguese collection, the nucleus of which was so carefully and diligently collected by George Ticknor for his private library, and later bequeathed by him to the City of Boston.

APPETITES AND ORIENTALS.

ADVENTURES OF A FEW LIBRARIANS IN SEARCH OF SOMETHING TO EAT.

During the past few weeks a number of the masculine members of the Library staff have formed the habit of congregating, once a fortnight or so, at Yoeng's on Huntington Avenue. Probably this place was selected for a number of reasons. First, it is about the right distance away; five minutes in the "bracing" winter air puts an edge on even the dullest appetite. Further, the advance guard of keen-tongued scouts reported the food good and not beyond the reach of a Library salary. Then there was the music, and "music hath charms . . ." even for the spirit ruffled by too familiar contact with the "dear public." Possibly the sardonically inclined may have had in mind the ancient Chinese adage, to the effect that if all the men went to Hongkong, all the women would go to Peking. Doubtlessly they reckoned that a Chinese restaurant would be near enough to Hongkong for the purposes of the experiment. If so, they must be disappointed, for (as the scientists say) "the results to date have been purely negative."

Of course, such dining clubs are no new thing. They are the natural result "whenever two or three are gathered together." James Russell Lowell had such a group; likewise, Christopher Morley's "Three Hours for Lunch" Club is a direct outcome of man's desire to season calories with converse. As for our English cousins, they are even more adept than we in the fine art of dining; indeed an industrious youngster named Boswell made quite a name for himself by cataloguing the bright remarks which were passed at the gatherings of one such club — passed, albeit, under the influence

of something rather stronger than potage julienne and lamb broth aux croûtons, or even of café au lait. And we still have need of Johnsons in many ways, despite the most excellent efforts of Messrs. Funk and Wagnalls. But let not the world despair; so far, we have not yet chanced to meet on a Friday. Who knows what may yet be said and done after a potent draught of clam chowder?

Yet, to be perfectly frank, the group at times seems wantonly unmindful both of its potentialities and of its debt to posterity; it is much more concerned with getting something to eat. After a long morning's toil, the inner man is apt to take the floor without regard for the accepted rules of Parliamentary procedure. Also he talks briskly and to the point, repeating the same thing over and over. It is not until extensive reinforcements have been assembled that his motion can at length be tabled and converse begin.

As a result, the man who has charge of massing these reinforcements becomes a very important person. The anti-starvation party has at divers times employed persons to lobby for them, with varying results. The changing conditions brought forth a number of different plans. At first it was held sufficient to have everybody meet at a certain hour at the restaurant and "go in" together. The requisite number of tables were then thrown into one and "business as usual" ensued. Unfortunately this proved to involve considerable delay in waiting to see "if anybody else is coming" and further, one more or less uncomprehending oriental (which was all the management seemed willing to allow us) was found to be quite inadequate to supply food for a dozen starving men at a rate coincident with occidental ideas of speed. Telegraphs, subways and one-arm lunches have doubtless spoiled our appreciation of eastern leisureliness. Very probably chicken chow mein was never intended to be ingested as rapidly as our western "one egg" — experimental evidence is all in favor of such an hypothesis. Theoretically, we found much of merit in

the waiter's attitude toward the absorption of nutriment. Practically, we were impressed with the desirability of confining that function to somewhere near its allotted hour and a quarter. Gently but firmly we agreed that "something must be done."

It remained for Mr. Dixon of the shipping room to find a solution of our problem. "Why," said Mr. Dixon, "should I not call for the menu on my way home the night before? Then in the morning each man can select his order, and the whole lot may then be sent on ahead with directions to have the orders ready at 1.15 sharp." An excellent suggestion, and one which the management seemed to comprehend perfectly.

Then, with an ingenuity quite oriental, it proceeded to do everything in its power to thwart the project. When Mr. Dixon called according to plan about 5.30 one evening, he was informed that the menu for the next day would not be ready until ten o'clock that night. "Oh, well, send it to me by mail," said our Mentor. The impassive manager nodded. But apparently he had not as yet grasped the intricacies of the Copley Square Post Office, for the next day — no menu. Nothing daunted, Mr. Dixon went up after it. Unfortunately the doors do not open until eleven and only by dint of great force and determination was he able to make his way to the manager's office. A lengthy parley ensued — breaking into restaurants is rather frowned upon in high Chinese circles. But the thought of his starving comrades in imminent danger of having to go dinnerless emboldened our spokesman. When he at length issued forth, he had a copy of the "carte de jour" safely tucked into his pocket. Yet then our troubles were not at an end; the card proved to be written in Chinese!

However, we called in our Chinese expert and the mysteries of "baked stuffed bluefish" and "fried oysters, sauce tartare," were speedily unravelled. Each man wrote out his order in good United States and the collected slips were sent forward under convoy of two youths from the stacks.

Beaten thus, horse, foot and guns, the wily orientals surrendered at discretion, and contented themselves with delaying the service a few moments, on the ground that only one of their cooks could read English, so that all the burden fell on him. However, the new system proved to be such a vast improvement over the old that its author was given a rising vote of thanks, and on the motion to make it unanimous he promptly rose to the occasion.

Thus it was that the now popular Dixon System of Dining first came into being. It has since been compared by its enthusiastic advocates with the Ginter System, the Holland System, the Waldorf System, and other famous solutions of the problem "where do we eat," to the marked disadvantage of them all. For those who like peace within and plenty without, a quiet chat and a chance to smoke, the Dixon System seems to "fill the bill" most excellently. At every meeting, more and more of the staff appear. None of us are scientists; few of us are really of a sardonic temperament. So it seems that the true solution of "why Yoeng's?" is to be found not in Chinese proverbs but in sundry pleasing incidents such as have been herein outlined.

W. R. B.

MEN AND WOMEN.

Many visitors to Bates Hall are surprised at the large proportion of men in the Hall and are often inclined to think that the condition at any particular time is accidental. The following figures, however, compiled during the week of October 22, indicate that, at least so far as this room is concerned, the men of Boston are more studious than the women. A count taken in the Fine Arts Department would probably tell a different story.

Oct. 22.	4 p.m.	89 men	69 women
Oct. 23.	3 p.m.	79 men	49 women
Oct. 24.	12 m.	53 men	22 women
Oct. 25.	8 p.m.	99 men	33 women
Oct. 26.	3 p.m.	58 men	39 women
Oct. 27.	7 p.m.	60 men	38 women

438 men 250 women

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Associate Editors.

MARION A. MCCARTHY

HARRY W. MATHEWS

WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM

MARY E. PRIM

DOROTHY E. HARVEY

HARRIET SWIFT

Vol. III, No. 5.

February 15, 1924

MAKING THE DEAD LIVE.

"Dead men's brains;" the name has been jocosely applied to a collection of old books. As we go through the stacks of the Central Library, or handle the dusty volumes on some of the Branch shelves, we are sometimes tempted to say "dead books — waste paper." And after a time we may be forgiven if we think of these books in the past tense, as something that can be trusted to rest in peace, and that may be dismissed from mind. It is not, indeed, strange if we almost resent a call for these books, as if one should ask us to disinter an aged citizen whom we had seen decently buried.

One of the paintings in the Library shows the angels lifting speechless skeletons from their grave, and restoring them to a radiant life. The dead books also await their resurrection. None is too dry or dull or cold to serve some student in search of a remote or troublesome fact. It is one of the privileges of us who guard the dusty treasures to assist in these resurrections. It may be a bore to dig them out; it may upset our notion of the permanency of things; but it means new life in exchange for long sleep, and it often means great joy to an eager searcher who has despaired of running down an obscure item. Happy the librarian who plays the part of angel at such a resurrection, and brings back to life the sleeping book which seemed dead.

A FUND FOR EMERGENCIES.

There was a slogan in war time anent the raising of funds, — "Give till it hurts."

Now advice to give and to continue giving was never needed, nor is needed to-day, by the workers of the Boston Public Library. On every hand, every day in the week, year after year, instances of the generous spirit of the staff are multiplied before our eyes.

Many of us live entirely on our salaries. Often the varied requests to contribute to this or to that cause, appealing to our sympathies, or to our sense of what is worth while, or merely to a feeling that we wish to join with our associates, bring us no little embarrassment. It may be the week that the insurance is due, or a season ticket is to be paid for, or an overcoat. We are trying to tide over a pinched interval on a ridiculous sum that we should be ashamed to own to. Then comes an emergency. Would that we could have the emergency fund to meet it!

Community giving is advocated in our towns and cities. Why not for the Library? To raise a fund once a year which should be drawn on for such emergencies as arise, to provide in advance the means for responding to the tugs upon our heart-strings and our purse-strings, is an idea worth our consideration.

Already the project has its beginnings among us in the proposal of the committee for the coming Leap Year Party of the Benefit Association, to devote one half of the proceeds of the party to the Association's Emergency Fund. The Whist Party and Dance of the B. P. L. E. B. A. has become an annual event in the Library. It has proved itself a profitable one. This year, more than ever, it should commend itself to our patronage.

One more point. Those of us who have the blessing of steady good health are apt to forget its value. We say, "I get nothing from the Association" — as if a run of sickness, with its accompanying benefits, were a good investment! Health is better worth paying for than sickness; and we who possess it may well give an annual

thank offering, for the aid of our less fortunate associates. The Emergency Fund fills a real place in the life of our body politic. Let us keep the fund full — which means giving our liberal support to the coming party — that it may not fail us when we need it.

NEWS NOTES.

Bishop Mann, of Pittsburgh, formerly President of the Board of Trustees, was in Boston over Sunday, February 10, preaching at Trinity Church both morning and evening. On Monday the Bishop spent a happy hour in the Central Library.

At a meeting of the Boston Ruskin Club, held in the Lecture Hall of the Library on February 8, the 105th anniversary of the birth of John Ruskin, Mr. Belden extended greetings and a welcome on behalf of the Board of Trustees. The Ruskin Club held its first meeting in the Library in 1907. Since 1914 the Club has held bi-weekly meetings during the lecture season. Sixteen meetings are on the program for the current year.

In a recent production of "Aunt Kitty," an original comedy in one act, which won the prize offered by the Junior Class of Boston College, the part of a "Jolly Workman," who hums and capers, was acted by Thomas Manning of the Shelf Department.

On January 17, members of the printing classes of the Prevocational schools of Boston called at the Library to place a wreath on the bust of Franklin in the Fine Arts Exhibition Room, in commemoration of the anniversary of his birth. They were received in the Trustees' Room by Mr. Belden, who made a brief address and presented each pupil with a reproduction of the portraits of Franklin by Duplessis and Greuze, and a facsimile of an autograph letter in the possession of the Library, as reproduced in the *Quarterly Bulletin* of June, 1923.

Miss Guerrier, Supervisor of Branches, recently made a trip to Washington, where she attended a hearing on the Library Information Service bill.

Mr. John J. O'Brien of the Bindery has written another song entitled, "Priscilla of Pilgrim Town," just published. During the past month he has rendered it on several occasions from the Shepard Stores and Edison broadcasting stations. In the short space of two years Mr. O'Brien has stepped to the front as one of our leading American popular rag-time song writers. This last composition is a dreamy waltz, with words reminiscent of Plymouth.

Mr. Belden has been a guest and speaker at recent meetings of the Professional Women's Club and the Boston Dickens Fellowship.

Richard F. O'Toole, a former employee of the Library, has been appointed by Secretary Hoover as Chief of the Latin-American Division of the Department of Commerce.

Miss Alice Smithers of the Issue Department gave a party at her home in South Boston on Saturday evening, January 26, which many of the younger library workers attended.

Haydon Jones had a very amusing sketch in the *Boston Sunday Herald* of February 10, showing the 990 Range in Bates Hall and tables nearby with readers tracing their pedigrees.

In the Lecture Hall of the Library on November 25, Judge Michael J. Murray, of the Board of Trustees, spoke on "Our City of Boston Today." On January 17, His Honor the Mayor, James M. Curley, spoke on "Boston of the next Twenty-five Years." Both addresses were illustrated with motion pictures and were given under the auspices of the Conservation Bureau of the City of Boston.

An attempt is being made to form an orchestra composed of members of the Library staff. Any one who plays a musical instrument is requested to send his name and the name of the instrument he plays to Mr. Abraham Polansky of the Shelf Department.

It will again be possible to order maple products from Mr. Clifford of North Pomfret, Vermont. The prices are the same as last year, f. o. b. North Pomfret, as follows:

Maple syrup . . .	\$2.25 a gallon
“ sugar . . .	3.00 10-lb. pail
“ sugar . . .	1.60 5-lb. pail
“ sugar cakes . .	.45 1-lb. boxes
“ cream . . .	.75 a pint

Please send your order, in writing, to Harriet Swift, Director's Office, before March 10.

FRANKLIN EXHIBITION.

For the opening of the exhibition in the Fine Arts Department, commemorative of the 218th anniversary of the birth of Franklin, Dr. Zoltán Haraszti, assistant in charge of the Barton-Ticknor Room, contributed a descriptive article to the *Boston Evening Transcript* of January 17. We quote the following by permission:

The Boston Public Library possesses what is believed to be the largest Franklin collection extant. Justin Winsor, one-time superintendent of the Library, began the systematic collection of Franklin's works as early as 1869. "It has been thought that Franklin is to Boston of something like the same significance as Shakespeare to England," he wrote in one of his annual reports, "and I have lost no opportunity of securing what I could, illustrative of the man and his works, and hope the collection may prove in the end of credit to the city of his birth."

Many of the volumes now on exhibition have a special bibliographical interest. Thus, the early and rare editions of the *Autobiography*, the *Cato Major*, *Poor Richard*, *The Way to Wealth*, the *Correspondence*, and the *Complete Works*.

The second group of the collection embraces the works relating to Franklin. Not a small group, indeed. All over the world Franklin's figure enjoyed, and enjoys today, an immense popularity, and hundreds of volumes were published about him. Those written in his own day, and saturated with the passion of the time, are perhaps the most interesting. A French booklet, printed in 1779, ironically alludes to

him as Benjamin le Franc; another, printed in Philadelphia in 1764, bears the colorful title: "What is sauce for a goose is also sauce for a gander. Being a small touch on the legendary way. An epitaph on a certain great man. . .," etc. The great man, whose epitaph this was meant to be, was nobody else but Franklin.

The third group consists of the books printed by Franklin. Many of them are from the earliest period of Franklin's career as printer. Everybody knows how proud this man was, even at the height of his international fame, of the works of "The New-Printing-Office, near the Market" in Philadelphia. Of "Cato Major," which he considered the chef-d'œuvre of his press, he brought several copies to England, distributing them with great satisfaction among his friends.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, Librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, was the guest of honor and speaker of the evening at the meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston, held January 16, at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology.

In spite of an old-fashioned New England rain storm, seventy-five or more members and invited guests met at the Walker Memorial for supper, which was concluded delightfully with informal speeches by Dr. Bigelow, Librarian of the Institute, Judge Murray, of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library, and Dr. Bostwick.

At the business meeting, five new members were elected, and twelve lectures, under the auspices of the Association, by Mrs. Ruth Lane, Vail Librarian of the Institute, were announced. The lecturer will take up topics of special interest to members of the Association. Applicants should communicate with Miss June R. Donnelly, at Simmons College. Fifty dollars were voted to the fund for the Library of the University of Louvain, and an equal sum to the libraries of Tokio. A committee, consisting of Mr. Handy and the Secretary, was directed to proceed with the publication of a new directory of the special libraries of Boston. The resignation of Miss Harriet E. Howe, of the Executive Committee, who has taken up work with the American Library As-

sociation, was accepted regretfully. Mr. Redstone, Mr. Lee, Mr. Chase and Mr. Briggs called attention to a number of indispensable reference books of recent issue. Then followed the address of welcome, by Dr. Bigelow, and the address of the evening, by Dr. Bostwick.

The title "oft proclaims the man," and the author of "The American Public Library," "The Different West," and "A Librarian's Open Shelf" made vivid, of course, the human side of his profession, the intimate relation between the library and the life of the city. The key-note of the address was service to groups of readers. Years ago, librarians were expected merely to know books — to-day they study the circulation, classify the readers according to their needs, make sure that the library has the standard works, new and old, required by each group, and that the books "get across" to the readers. Books and readers interact; the modern library has become thoroughly socialized; the building, which is, in a way, a municipal clubhouse, should have rooms specially adapted for the meetings of numerous organizations, from boys' and girls' clubs to the gatherings of their big brothers and sisters, and the musical and literary societies of their fathers and mothers. For countless activities the library will become the meeting place first thought of by the citizens.

After the address the guests visited the Library and other points of interest in the Institute, under the hospitable guidance of members of the Library staff.

MOVING DAYS IN THE STACKS.

Have you happened to pass through Stack Six of late and to wonder what has happened to the shelves? Row after row of empty shelves and never a book in sight.

Extend your walk into Stack Six Annex, where a surprise awaits you. Only a short time ago this was waste space, the unfinished portion of the Annex. The remaining two stacks have been completed, steel and glass floors laid, steel shelving placed, and

all is in readiness except the lights, which are being installed at the present time. A number of extra assistants were pressed into service for the moving, and the Shelf Department reports that the books on Physical Science (39's, 59's and 79's) are now in place on the new shelves. Pending completion of the lighting system, the books in Stack Six are in process of rearrangement; the Annex will then receive all books on Natural Science (38's, 58's and 78's) and probably all those in Medical Science (37's, etc.), with the books on technical subjects, which will thus be made convenient of access to the Industrial Arts Division.

The new steel shelving was supplied by the Library Bureau to match their previous work on the floors below. Your walk through this additional space will have been hardly worth while if you fail to discover that place desired of all readers—"The One Quiet Spot" in the building. It is — but, no, you must find it for yourself.

H. W. M.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

The Massachusetts Library Club held a one-day session in the State House at Boston on January 25 for its mid-winter meeting.

Governor Cox's welcome to the librarians, after the meeting was called to order by the President, Mr. E. H. Redstone, was followed by an informal talk on "Preventive Criticism," by the Reverend J. Frank Chase, secretary of the Massachusetts Watch and Ward Society. This talk was an eleventh-hour substitute for Mr. Fuller's address on Book Censorship which he was unable to give, as scheduled.

In the afternoon, Vice-President Harold A. Wooster spoke on the Dangers and Perplexities of Book Reviews, with emphasis on what he called the five essentials of a good book review, — authority, thoroughness, honesty, timeliness, and readability.

Miss Alice L. Hopkins, of Simmons College, presented the question of reviews as a help rather than a danger.

Mr. George H. Tripp, commenting

charmingly on many recent books, lauded the virtues of biography, an antidote, he said, for much of the literature of another sort which we have to-day, epigrammatically described by him as erotic, neurotic, and tommyrotic.

Mr. Chase, of the Boston Public Library, gave a talk on the important reference books of 1923, exhibiting forty volumes brought from the Library for the purpose.

After dinner at the Bellevue in the evening, the Club was privileged to hear Prof. Charles T. Copeland read.

Before the meeting came to an end, Magnolia was voted the place of the next reunion in June.

Not the least attractive feature of the day's hospitality was Miss Goldstein's timely invitation to the Club members to visit the West End Branch. She herself personally conducted a party of guests during the noon recess and visitors continued coming throughout the day.

STAFF CLUB.

At its meeting of January 29, the Staff Club featured vacations. Kodaks As We Went, or, Staff Travels, was the theme of the evening. Everybody was asked to figure himself in imagination, seated on the magic carpet of fabled fame and, with the aid of picture post cards and a reflectoscope, flying with his Library associates.

Miss Guerrier had been abroad; Miss Deery to Nova Scotia; Mr. Chase, climbing Mt. Katahdin with the Appalachians. At Ayer, Massachusetts, William Graham appeared before a Camp Devens background. Down on the Cape was Mr. Murdoch, with the family, and Miss Prim when she came to spend the day.

Sight-seeing ended in Copley Square with a contribution of the Library's own, — the Duplessis Franklin, Howard Pyle's series of Washington, and Sargent's Prophets.

Miss Guerrier, Miss Mary Reynolds, Miss Marion A. McCarthy, Mr. Murdoch, Mr. Chase, and Mr. Taylor, were the hosts of the evening.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

February 27 is Association Night. Are you coming? The Chateau Dansant, 353 Huntington Avenue, with a perfect floor! Whist beginning at half-past eight! Prizes to delight the eye! Dancing, with special features, from eight o'clock till twelve! Butler's Orchestra! The Association has done its best for you.

Will you back up the Association? Buy tickets? Come? — And if you do not care for cards or dancing, just be sociable?

It is aimed to divide the proceeds of this Leap Year Party equally between the Emergency Fund and a fund to provide a party for the Association in the spring.

Tickets are fifty-five cents each, including war tax. The names of the persons on the Committee are: William F. A. Graham, Chairman; Florence M. Sullivan, Treasurer; Mary McDonough, Secretary; Margaret Calnan; M. Florence Cufflin; Beatrice M. Flanagan; Alice M. Kernan; Marion A. McCarthy; Mary E. Prim; Frank C. Blaisdell; Frank H. Chase; Emil Hofman; James J. Kelley; William H. McCarthy; James P. Mooers.

THE SICK LIST.

The Chairman of the Relief Committee reports the continued absence of Miss Therese Masterson, Bindery Department; Miss Mary Sheridan, Issue Department; Miss Margaret V. Rooney, Brighton Branch; Miss Mary Sullivan, Parker Hill Branch; Miss Alice McEttrick, South End Branch; and Miss Caroline Curtis, Upham's Corner Branch.

Miss Elsie W. Coolidge of the Catalogue Department is ill at her home. Miss Annie L. Heiman of North End Branch is in the hospital.

LIBRARY LIFE welcomes back to the post of duty Miss Catherine Loughman, Upham's Corner Branch; Miss Mary Dornan, Bindery Department; and Mr. Frank J. Hannigan of the Periodical Room.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume III, No. 6

March 15, 1924

CONTENTS.

MUSIC WEEK	57	UNSAID GOOD-BYES	63
THE MONTHLY BULLETIN	58	NEWS NOTES	64
SUMMER LIBRARY MEETINGS	58	INK	65
A FAMOUS LIBRARY BOY	58	"OH, WAD SOME POWER," ETC.	65
COVER DESIGNS	59	LOST ARTICLES	66
MISS MURDOCH'S PHOTOGRAPHS	59	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION	66
IN HONOR OF GALILEO	59	EXTENSION SERVICE COMMITTEE	66
MRS. SHAW'S GIFTS	60	LIBRARY SPIRIT CLUB	67
NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES	60	STAFF CLUB	67
EDITORIALS	62	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	68

MUSIC WEEK.

"Weeks come and Weeks go, all except John W.," says the *New York World*. And now Boston is to have Music Week, from May 4 to 10. A committee of one hundred music-lovers, musicians, and public officials are working out the details. The enthusiastic chairman, Mrs. William Arms Fisher, may be seen any day in the Trustees' Room of the Library. At least she was to be seen last week, but by now she is undoubtedly snowed under by the magazine articles, type-written plans and clippings which were drifting onto her desk as she discussed Music Week.

"One million concerts in one week is our slogan," she declared. "This may sound excessive, but when you consider that we hope to get in touch with every factor in the city it is not impossible. Every organization, every factory and shop, theatres, moving picture houses, hotels, department stores are working with us to bring music to everyone, everywhere. In addition, the phonograph and the radio will bring the concert total close to a million."

A remarkable organizer is Mrs.

Fisher. She even has the Boston Chamber of Commerce backing her, or rather she has persuaded that organization to permit her to inject a little melody into Boston business.

"Why shouldn't business and music mix?" she asked. "Psychologists have proved to us that an army marches better to music, even if it is only the music of a penny whistle, so there will be special observances in the department stores and business houses. The department stores are also to have window displays in honor of the week."

There will be more music than usual in the Boston schools. Concerts will be given on Boston Common by massed groups of the excellent school orchestras.

"Boston," Mrs. Fisher went on, "is the cradle of American music. People do not realize how many unusual 'firsts' Boston has to her credit. The first singing-school in America was held here, the first pipe organ was built here, we had the first orchestra in America."

One's eyes bulge at the thought of Boston's musical priority!

"As a conclusion to Music Week," Mrs. Fisher declared, "we are to give a mammoth production of "Elijah" at the Boston Opera House, with choruses

of Boston people, including school-children. This will be under the charge of the Greater Boston Federation of Churches."

Two callers and the telephone sought Mrs. Fisher's presence then, and she rose to deal with all three in her delightful, unruffled manner.

In the time that has elapsed since the interview, it is more than likely that this energetic chairman has persuaded Mengelberg to conduct a symphony on the Common with De Pachman as soloist.

Boston promises to be a thrilling place from May 4 to May 10.

M. E. P.

THE MONTHLY BULLETIN.

For fifteen years — since 1908 — the Library has issued side by side a *Quarterly Bulletin* and a *Weekly List of New Books*. The passage of the years has raised a doubt as to whether either of these publications is entirely effective as a means of library publicity.

At the end of 1923 both the *Quarterly Bulletin* and the *Weekly* were suspended and in their place is being issued as an experiment a monthly "Bulletin of Recent Books," two numbers of which have already appeared. The list is to be "restricted to the titles of books which are believed to be of popular interest and which circulate without restriction. The dictionary arrangement of the *Quarterly Bulletin*, with entries under author, title and subject, will continue for the present. It is the hope of the Library authorities that this experiment may lead to a bulletin which will meet the needs of the reading public more closely than has any similar publication in the past."

The new bulletin lacks the timeliness of the *Weekly List* and the dignity of the old *Quarterly*, but it is an important step in the evolution of a practical tool adapted to the actual needs of those who use the Library. A colored slip is inserted in the *Bulletin* in the hope that readers may be induced to make helpful suggestions in regard to its form. A year's trial should show clearly whether the change is in the

right direction; it is probable that further experiment may be made before the Library finds an ideal organ of communication with those who borrow its books. In the meantime, the *Bulletin* is a convenient guide by which the call-numbers of recent books of popular interest may easily be found, both by borrowers and by assistants at the Branch Libraries, where some such publication is a real necessity.

SUMMER LIBRARY MEETINGS.

The American Library Association, which last year held its annual conference at Hot Springs, Arkansas, far beyond the reach of most of us, has chosen Saratoga Springs as its meeting-place for this year; the conference will occur during the week beginning June 20, and including the Fourth of July. The national Special Library Association will hold its annual meeting at the same time and place.

The Massachusetts Library Club has fixed upon Swampscott as the place for its annual meeting in June, and the New York State Library Association announces its usual "Library Week" in September, at the Lake Placid Club, a place of singular attractiveness. With all these gatherings of librarians at beautiful summer resorts within a comparatively short distance, the members of the Library staff should plan their vacations so as to include at least one of the meetings listed. Railroad and hotel rates will be reduced for the occasions, and the meetings form an excellent opportunity for combining a good time with the increase of our professional acquaintance and our knowledge of library movements and methods outside our own institution.

A FAMOUS LIBRARY BOY.

Mr. George Allan England, who gave a lecture on "Seal-fishing in the Arctic, a personal experience," in the Library lecture course on Thursday, November 8, was for some time a member of the Library staff, in the years 1894 and 1895. Mr. England went

from his work here into Harvard College, where he was graduated in the class of 1902, receiving the additional degree of A.M. in 1904. Since his graduation he has been steadily writing, except for long periods spent in travelling, in search of material. His earliest literary work was a translation of a French poem, for which he received first prize in a world-wide competition. He presently entered the field of fiction, and sold his first story to *Collier's Weekly* for \$100. His novels and short stories have been translated into various European languages, and a number of them have been used on the screen. He now has in press two books, both based on his experience in seal-fishing, entitled respectively "Vikings of the North" and "A White Wilderness." A poem from his pen, entitled "An Old Coach," with illustrations, appeared in *Scribner's Magazine* for December. He says, "I put in seven days a week at writing, long hours, and turn out about 500,000 words a year." Mr. England's present address is Bradford, N. H.

COVER DESIGNS.

From 1200 sketches submitted in the second annual competition for cover designs, conducted by the House Beautiful Publishing Co., a selection of 150 were shown in the Fine Arts Exhibition Room from February 16 to 25. To judge from the number of daily visitors this was easily the most popular exhibition of the season. The whole room breathed an atmosphere of outdoor sunshine and cheerfulness.

The designs were rich in color, carefully executed, and distinctly original. The spirit of the times was plainly shown in the cover using a Mah Jong set as decoration. Entries were received from Europe, as well as from all parts of the United States. Next to Massachusetts the largest numbers came from New York and California.

The first prize of \$500 was awarded to Maurice Day of Damariscotta, Maine; the second prize of \$250 to F. William Haemmel of Laurel Hill, Long Island. Honorable mention was given to nine-

teen additional designs, from which a selected number will be purchased for use as covers at \$100 each. The judges were Miss Power, editor of the House Beautiful Publishing Co., Mr. Frost of the School of Architecture, Cambridge, and Mr. Sedgwick of the Atlantic Monthly Publishing Co.

Let us hope that next year we may have the opportunity to show a similar exhibit.

E. M. M.

MISS MURDOCH'S PHOTOGRAPHS.

About ten years ago, Miss Helen Murdoch, a sister of Mr. John Murdoch, late of the Catalogue Department, started on a tour round the world. She travelled east from this country, which proved her salvation in that year of 1914, and had reached China at the time of the outbreak of the Great War. In connection with a delightful travel-talk on "The World in its True Colors," given by Miss Murdoch in the Library lecture course, enlargements of the photographs taken along her way, as well as some of the beautiful autochromes in which she specializes, were recently shown in the Exhibition Room and represented in sequence the countries visited, England, France, Egypt, the Holy Land, India, Burmah, Ceylon, and China. The beauty of the Taj Majal, the quiet banks of the River Jordan, the delicate hues of exotic blossoms, are brought before the eyes in pictures that are proof at once of the traveller's artistic perceptions and her sense of what is interesting.

C. H.

IN HONOR OF GALILEO.

For the 360th anniversary of Galileo's birthday, there were exhibited in the Barton Room a number of early and rare editions of the great astronomer-philosopher's works. Dr. Zoltán Haraszti, in charge of the Barton-Ticknor Room, contributed a descriptive article to the *Boston Evening Transcript* of February 9.

A small duodecimo booklet, the "Sidereus Nuncius" — we quote by

permission —

is probably the most interesting and scientifically the most valuable among the volumes shown. The crowded title-page tells the story of the author from his patrician birth to his discovery of the fourth planet of Jupiter. The "Nuncius" consists, altogether, of fifty-four pages, but the booklet—printed in 1610—called forth the most excited and amazed comment from the scholars of the world. It contained the first description of the mountainous configuration of the moon; and it resolved into myriads of stars the nebulae of the Milky Way. These were the first results of the application of the telescope, partly invented by Galileo himself.

Best-known among the books on exhibition is undoubtedly the "Dialogo," which was published in 1632. Fifteen years before, Galileo had solemnly promised not to teach the doctrine of the motion of the earth, but this book—though in the form of a satire—was a crying affirmation of the new belief. The famous saying, "Eppur si muove!" (it moves nevertheless!) which after the formal disavowal of his doctrine he was supposed to murmur to a friend, is attached to the story of this book. The edition was ordered to be burned in 1623. The Boston Public Library possesses the first Italian edition, as well as the first Latin one, published in 1635 by the Elzevirs in Leyden.

The book representing the greatest monetary and bibliographical value is Ptolemy's "Cosmographia," in the great folio edition of Leonardus Holle, "vir ingeniosus," as with unusual modesty he styles himself in the colophon. This edition of 1482 (Ulm) is especially noteworthy, and is commonly held (by Stevens, Winsor, Pollard, etc.) to be one of the finest books printed in Germany during the fifteenth century.

MRS. SHAW'S GIFTS.

Mrs. Henry S. Shaw, of Milton, has given to the Library an interesting collection of opera and concert programs and playbills of Boston performances dating between 1849 and 1923, with a number of engravings and books. To the West End Branch Library she has presented a charming little marble by Larkin Goldsmith Mead, called "Echo." Mr. and Mrs. Shaw were married in Dr. Bartol's church, which in 1896 became our West End Branch, and it is fitting that this attractive gift should be placed there.

Among the books are four printed in the 16th century and ten in the 17th century. They include editions of the works of Flavius Josephus (Frankfort, 1580); Ptolemy's Geography (Venice,

1598); the first edition of Bussato's Garden of Agriculture (Venice, 1592); and Dolce's translation of the Metamorphoses of Ovid (Venice, 1568). Among the 17th century books are Theatro del Mondo by Ortelius (Venice, 1689), with a description and map of America; Della fisionomia dell'huomo, by G. Battista Porta (Padua, 1623), a curious book illustrated with wood-cuts of men and animals of similar expression; and a Bible in German, printed at Dordrecht, bound in leather with emblems and figures in repoussé metal work.

H. S.

NOTES FROM THE BRANCHES.

ANDREW SQUARE: The library has been entirely renovated, desks and tables rearranged, radiators and gas fixtures bronzed, books relabelled and a combined rest and lunch room has been made with the use of beaver board screens. Miss McShane, the librarian, has made a big book of manila paper, in which she has pasted the gay paper covers of the children's books. This serves as a picture-book for the younger children and a catalogue for the older ones.

A window display recently installed has attracted much favorable comment. Camels, Arabian horses, striped tents, date-bearing palms and turbaned Arabs on a waste of yellow sand indicate unmistakably the desert of Sahara. The sign, "Travel in books to foreign lands," directs the attention of adult readers to the shelf of books on travel.

CHARLESTOWN: A slide of the Charlestown Branch Library, with captions describing its location and advantages, is being shown on the screen at the Charlestown Evening Centre.

EAST BOSTON: This Branch last year used a new method of advertising. In addition to publishing announcements in the local papers, the librarian sent questionnaires to all the principal industrial plants. Many interesting replies were received, embracing suggestions which, if followed up, would greatly increase the use of the library.

FANEUIL: It is interesting to know that the oldest reader at this Branch, up to the first of the year, was a man of 103 years. Miss Connell would like to know if any Branch can beat that.

The extension of the bus line operated by the Elevated has added to the activity of Brook Street, upon which the Faneuil Branch is located. There is a white stopping post at the library, which is very convenient for the patrons of the Branch.

JAMAICA PLAIN: It is interesting to know that out of the 205 teachers residing in Jamaica Plain, 96 are registered card holders at this Branch. A slide of the Jamaica Plain Library, with captions pointing out its location and advantages, has been shown at the Jamaica moving picture house.

NEPONSET: Neponset has placed collections of books on tables at the large windows in the front of the building, and many of the people passing or waiting for cars have paused to look them over. The result has been numerous calls for books "that I saw in the window yesterday."

NORTH END: The story-hour at North End is always well attended: there have been as many as 220 present at a time. The hour is 6.30, but so anxious are the boys to attend the story-telling that at 5 o'clock they begin to congregate, and use the street in front of the library for a playground until at 6.15, under the guidance of the police officer, they are arranged in a long line and file in very quietly.

ORIENT HEIGHTS: A display counter has been placed in the window of Orient Heights, affording an excellent means of advertising new accessions.

ROSLINDALE: A Children's Room has been established, which has proved a distinct success. This change necessitated a considerable amount of extra work, since it was necessary to move the books and tables from one room to the other. A new entrance for the children was planned on one side of the building, so as to reduce the noise and clatter which in the busy hours of the day is very annoying to adult read-

ers and students who come for serious work.

SOUTH BOSTON: Miss Ellen A. Eaton, formerly first assistant at the South Boston Branch, is enjoying the leisure afforded by her retirement. On December 26, accompanied by her sister, Miss Emma Eaton, she went to Deland, Florida, where she is planning to remain until the latter part of March.

SOUTH END: A very good picture of the new South End Branch is shown in the South End Almanac, with interesting comments on the opportunities afforded there for the public.

TYLER STREET: The first of a series of "C" and "D" Branch "get-together" meetings was held Friday evening, March 7, at Tyler Street Branch. Everything was in apple-pie order and after a survey of the work going on in the three rooms, a meeting was held at which several interesting matters were discussed. At 9.30 p.m., refreshments were served by the Branch staff, which is at present composed of young women and men of ambition, who are anxious to get ahead. All of them are either studying at school or taking Library Courses and University Extension Courses. This adds to their usefulness to the Library as well as to their personal efficiency.

WEST END: The location of books on the shelves has been entirely changed, so that the library is much more attractive than in the past. About fifteen hundred non-fiction books having a specific appeal have been selected from the restricted shelves to meet the needs of the New American and daily visitor. The ranges now have appropriate signs which read: Yiddish Books; Russian Books; Italian Books; Polish Books; German Books; French Books; Easy Books and Citizenship; Books of Interest to Catholic readers; Some Books Worth While (titles are constantly changed in this range); Books of Interest to Jewish Readers.

Miss Goldstein, librarian at West End, has been appointed a member of the Massachusetts State Library Club's Committee on Work with Foreigners.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Associate Editors.

MARION A. MCCARTHY

HARRY W. MATHEWS

WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY

MARY E. PRIM
HARRIET SWIFT

Vol. III, No. 6.

March 15, 1924

The editors acknowledge gratefully the punctuality and willing assistance of the contributors to this number of *LIBRARY LIFE*. The publication of the paper is made possible only through the generous gift of time and pains by members of the staff.

VETERANS.

On the last day of February the Library bade good-bye to two men who form important links with the past, and who have so long occupied their present posts that we have come to think of them as permanent parts of the institution. Mr. Henry Niederauer, who entered the service of the Library in September, 1894, during the erection of the Copley Square building, knew its every detail of construction, and has had charge of the building and its machinery ever since its occupation. A kindly man, wise and tolerant in his dealings with the staff, Mr. Niederauer has seen to it that the beautiful and elaborate structure committed to his charge did not suffer from the passage of time, and that all its intricate machinery was kept in good running order. His sense of humor has often saved an awkward situation, and his mechanical skill, directed by an unflagging interest in his duties, has carried the Library through many a tight place. His position will be hard to fill: it has required a combination of traits which Mr. Niederauer has possessed in generous measure. We shall all miss him.

Mr. William G. T. Roffe — "Will" Roffe, of the cricket field — is a veteran in the best sense of the term, whose work in a peculiar sense formed a bridge between the "old building" and the present one. Seasoned by long service, he has kept young in a remarkable degree, and passed directly from his place in the Library to one in the library of the *Boston Globe*, which he had served as "cricket editor" for thirty-nine years. Mr. Roffe was English-born, and never lost the characteristic flavor which he brought with him across the water. His work, in charge of the shelves of the Library, was one of vast detail. For many years he had the duty of finding for every new book its appropriate place on the shelves. He was custodian of the shelf-list — that most venerable piece of library machinery — and, bound as he was by its limitations, he was always patient and resourceful, and infinitely painstaking in the effort to locate the books correctly in spite of the difficulties placed in his way by the rigidity of the old shelf-list, which was at once his servant and his master. He had a dry humor which we all liked, and a sly way of looking as if he expected to be imposed upon, and then of giving you just what you wanted, which was very delightful. A friendly and faithful soul he was, to whom the Library owes much for the 43 years — to a day — of devoted and self-forgetful service which he gave it. A sturdy upholder of tradition, he belonged to a type which is passing, but a type which can ill be spared. We are glad that he was so long with us.

DEPARTMENTAL REPRESENTATIVES.

The strength of an organization lies in the intelligent interest of its members, an interest which is best gained by service. The Benefit Association has long suffered from the fact that all the work was done and all the responsibility carried by a few; the rank and file have known little of the Association except that they have had to pay dues and that, in case of sickness, they have

—if nothing slipped up—received their benefits. They were conscious of little touch with the Association, and have often been critical of its management, simply because they have not been close to it.

All that has been changed under the new Constitution,—which, by the way, is now in press and will soon be in the hands of all the members. The recent entertainment offered the first opportunity of becoming conscious of the new plan of departmental representatives, who are to stand for the Association in every department and branch of the Library. They are to give prompt notice when anyone is sick, thus insuring that the member shall receive his benefits without the delay which has sometimes been caused by failure to observe the formalities required by the Constitution; they are to inform the Secretary of new accessions to the staff of the department, and to invite them to join the Association; they are also to give notice of the departure of members from the employ of the Library, and of their return to work after illness. In addition to all this, they will be the Association's agents in their respective departments or branches, for whatever service the Association needs; thus they took charge of the sale of tickets to the recent entertainment, and of the provision of the finest lot of whist prizes ever contributed by the various sections of the Library.

All this is as it should be. The Association is made up of the members of the Library staff, and exists for our mutual benefit. We all help, in order that we may all be helped. We serve each other here, as nowhere else in the institution. Under the old constitution, the individual members had few opportunities for giving actual personal service. Now there are fifty new chances, for fifty members—the list was printed in *LIBRARY LIFE* for December 15. The plan worked admirably in connection with the recent entertainment; the representatives gladly assumed the responsibility offered to them, and helped greatly to make the entertainment a success. They

will be of even greater use when any of us are ill. They will hasten the word to the Relief Committee, and will see to it that those who are sick do not forget their physicians' certificates and the other technical observances necessary to insure full and prompt payment.

Welcome to these new Messengers of Kindness! They will fill a happy place in the life of the Library.

The reflectoscope, a property indispensable to the Staff Club's party, "Kodaks as we went," was loaned by Miss Lotta A. Clark, of the Boston Normal School. To her kindness in lending the instrument Miss Clark added some invaluable instructions for its use. The editors regret the inadvertent omission of these acknowledgments from the last issue of *LIBRARY LIFE*.

UNSAID GOOD-BYES.

Years of working in the Library, years of birthdays piled up to their account, then automatic separation from the service, stirred in them the one desire—that they might be allowed to go silently.

As with many another serious subject, people joke about jobs, about having to face the time-book every morning, the hardship, the irksomeness of it all, but when the final wrenching apart from their familiar duties actually occurs, what a grievous thing it is! Finally, the situation resolves itself into a hand-shake, murmurings in a voice that quavers a little, a slight figure going down the service staircase with a box of flowers that someone has thrust forward at the last moment, a door opening and closing. Or, perhaps, in the spring dusk outside, a well-known silhouette appears, overcoated, cigar alight, sombrero pulled down over the eyes, trudging away from the Library.

No words. They know what it is to be seventy plus. Some of them, after half a lifetime with the Library, know what it is to start out to seek

new work in new places and to endure the inevitable homesickness. Here we must leave them, with the assurance that we who remain are also a little lonesome.

C. H.

NEWS NOTES.

The following members of the staff, old friends of us all, left the service under the provisions of the Boston Retirement Act on February 29:

Miss Dora L. Cutler, Catalogue Department.

Mr. Henry Niederauer, Chief Engineer.

Mr. William G. T. Roffe, in charge of the Shelf Division, Catalogue Department.

At their meeting on Friday, February 29, the Trustees made the following promotions and appointments to important positions in the Library:

Michael McCarthy, in charge of the Shelf Division, Catalogue Department.

Richard G. Appel, in charge of the Music Division, Special Libraries.

Zoltán Haraszti, in charge of Barton-Ticknor Room, Special Libraries.

Marion C. Kingman, Librarian of Matapan Branch.

LIBRARY LIFE welcomes to their new posts of responsibility these associates, old and new, who have already made for themselves a recognized place in the life of the Library.

On the night of February 10, Mr. Walter M. Leighton, night watchman, fell while making his rounds and suffered concussion of the brain. Under care at the Boston City Hospital, he rallied, and after five days was taken to his home, 56 North Beacon Street, Allston. He planned to return to work after three weeks' rest; but while visiting one of his daughters, he had a more serious shock, which will prevent him from resuming his duties. He will be placed on the retired list as soon as arrangements can be made.

Mr. Leighton entered the service of the City in 1900, and of the Library

in 1911, and will be much missed as a popular, faithful and conscientious employee.

The Library was fortunate in having Mr. Horace G. Wadlin as its lecturer on Sunday afternoon, March 9. Mr. Wadlin took as his subject "Books and Life," and brought to his audience a rich feast of the vital things of literature. He quoted widely from the great poets, reading his selections with his well-known dramatic skill. Mr. Wadlin's taste does not run to the ultra-modern, either in life or in books, but he knows the good old wells which never run dry. He gave his hearers a great deal of pleasure by his wise comments and his sympathetic rendering of choice bits.

Miss Jordan went to Cleveland about the middle of February to give two lectures at the Library School of Western Reserve University. She spent three very pleasant days with the staff of the Cleveland Public Library, visiting branches and school libraries where the work with children has been developed with marked success.

"Dr. Herbert Putnam, Librarian of Congress, and Mrs. Putnam of Washington, have just announced the engagement of their daughter, Miss Shirley Putnam, editor and manager of the Greenwich, Connecticut, Press, to Eliot O'Hara of Waltham. The wedding will take place in New York City in the spring. Miss Putnam, who is a graduate of Bryn Mawr College, has been editor of the Greenwich paper for three years. . . . During the war Miss Putnam was overseas for two years with the Red Cross and the American Library Association."

The foregoing announcement from the *Boston Evening Transcript* of February 9 may be of interest to those members of our staff who recall the days when "little Shirley Putnam" used to visit the Library.

Arrangements have finally been made by which the Branch card catalogue has been transferred from the

Catalogue Room to the Branch Department. It has long been desired to do this, but until recently no space has been available in the Branch Department. This change will result in the saving of much time when in the future the members of the Branch Department have occasion to consult their catalogue.

Mr. John O'Brien's latest song, a snappy fox-trot entitled "O'Grady's Radio," has just been accepted by a well-known publisher. In a short time we shall hear it broadcasted by its author's voice.

Miss Rosamond L. Smith, a member of the Guild of Boston Artists, has for some weeks been engaged on a large painting of the Main Staircase of the Library. Miss Smith is a graduate of the School of the Museum of Fine Arts, and is well known for her vigorous studies of various aspects of everyday Boston life. Her work has received wide recognition, and one of her paintings was awarded a bronze medal at the Panama-Pacific Exposition in 1915. The members of the staff, together with a large "gallery" of the public, have been interested spectators of the progress of Miss Smith's work. The presence of a person poised on the stairs, arrested in full motion, has been a bit puzzling until we have realized that the apparent victim of paralysis has only been one of Miss Smith's patient models.

Miss Zaidee Brown, editor of *Lantern Lists*, gave an interesting book-talk at the Branch Librarians' meeting on February 20.

As we go to press, we receive the first copies of Part III of "A guide to serial publications . . . compiled and edited by Thomas Johnston Homer." This part, which covers the alphabet from "Ess" to "Int", ends, appropriately for readers interested in world affairs, with a large group of titles beginning with the word "International." The librarians of the Boston district rejoice in the steady progress of Mr. Homer's important work, which in-

creases in value with the issue of each additional installment.

INK.

Not often does our institution attain New York publicity, but such was our distinction when the news went forth that an attempt had been made to destroy the "Synagogue" — that much discussed painting by John Singer Sargent. Sometime on February 19 or 20 a vandal with a very poor aim threw ink at the picture; amateur detectives have deduced the sex of the criminal from the failure to make a bull's-eye. We prefer to think that haste and fear of discovery were responsible for the small proportion of ink which hit the picture. Much ink on the steps below the Bates Hall balcony, a little on the balustrade in Sargent Hall, many spots on an adjacent panel and forty or fifty small spots on the lower portion of the picture itself made up the sum of the damage. Fortunately the acid did not penetrate the flattening coat and the painting was skilfully restored by Mr. Herbert S. Thompson, of the Museum of Fine Arts, with the approval of Mr. Sargent, who happened to be in the city.

"OH, WAD SOME POWER," ETC.

Recently a Bostonian, species book-worm, was browsing (I suppose the editor will say "mixed metaphor," change to boring) around Norfolk, Va., where he had gone on a business trip, when he spied a second-hand book store.

Entering, he noticed on the shelf a copy of "The Boston Public Library, a History," by Horace G. Wadlin. Possessing a copy of his own, he was curious enough to ask the price of this one, and was informed that it was \$7.50. At this rate of advance, another hundred years will see this work placed among rare Americana, and priced prohibitively.

J. W. K.

Inquiry in Bates Hall: Can you give me the poem by Charles Dickens called "The Teakettle and the Cricket"?

LOST ARTICLES.

Lost articles found in the Central Library Building should be sent immediately to the attendant in charge of the new circulating fiction in the Delivery Room.

This department is a real clearing house for lost articles; a record is made at once of every item found, or reported lost; and any delay in forwarding may give great inconvenience to owners of missing articles.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

One of the most interesting features of the meetings of the Special Libraries Association of Boston this year has been the opportunities they have afforded for studying new or unusual sources of information at first hand. The Association's meeting on March 4, at the United States Immigration Service Station, East Boston, was decidedly in keeping with this policy.

Following the customary informal supper gathering, held at the Wentworth Lunch, near the South Station, the company, numbering seventy-five or more, embarked from Rowe's Wharf for East Boston and the Immigration Building. Commissioner of Immigration Johnson "personally conducted" a brief inspection tour of the detention quarters, after which the meeting was held in the Station's immaculate dining-room.

Mr. Lee reported for the Committee on a Union Catalogue. A preliminary card form for the catalogue has been issued, and all members are asked to send in titles of unusual or expensive books in their libraries.

It was announced that Mrs. Lane's course of lectures in library practice will begin March 21.

Commissioner Johnson spoke interestingly on the work of the Immigration Service. Examination of persons arriving forms only about twenty-five per cent of this work. All seamen

must be medically examined; there are court cases and Habeas Corpus cases to consider; supervision must be kept of aliens admitted on probation; all sorts of special investigations must be made. The Commissioner also discussed the larger aspects of the immigration problem, and exhibited some striking and significant statistical charts comparing the so-called "old" and "new" immigration.

Dr. Niles Carpenter, of the Department of Social Ethics of Harvard University, reviewed briefly several important books on immigration. The Reports of the United States Immigration Commission, published in 1911 and 1912, the most comprehensive and influential work on the subject, have been the source of many textbooks. Dr. Carpenter stated, however, that the reports are somewhat uneven in scientific content, and not always unbiased.

Three other books that are shaping public opinion are Madison Grant's "Passing of the great race," Brigham's "Study of American intelligence" and Laughlin's "Restriction of immigration." Dr. Carpenter disagreed with many present-day contentions regarding the "old" and the "new" immigrant, and condemned much of the current literature on immigration as unscientific and prejudiced. L. A. S.

EXTENSION SERVICE COMMITTEE OF GREATER BOSTON.

It is some time since any report of the activities of the Extension Service Committee has appeared in *LIBRARY LIFE*. The Committee, which meets weekly at the Boston Public Library, is continuing its various lines of work and is striking out some new ones.

The Committee held an interesting meeting at the Library on October 16, in the attempt to round up those Boston organizations engaged in collecting or distributing information which are not covered by the Directory of Special Libraries issued in 1921. The resources opened up were seen to be so important that the Special Libraries Association

devoted its November meeting to a further consideration of the subject.

The meeting of October 30 was devoted to the subject of "Every-day English." Various problems of expression were vigorously discussed by an interested group of business men and English experts, who agreed that modern office practice is putting into permanent form a mass of colloquial language such as has never before been employed in serious composition. The meeting was amusingly reported in the *Boston Herald* of the following day, with the aid of a suggestive cartoon by Mr. Franklin Collier of the *Herald* staff, who was present at the meeting.

The Committee is now engaged in two interesting enterprises: the working out of methods of collecting and filing information for the long-proposed Union Catalogue of the important additions to Boston libraries; and the formation and adoption of some plan of discard, by which material which has ceased to be of value to one library may be made available to other libraries which may still have a use for it.

LIBRARY SPIRIT CLUB.

VALENTINE PARTY.

The second annual Valentine Party of the Library Spirit Club was held in the Staff Lecture Room on Wednesday evening, February 13. Among the many features was a distribution of valentines by Dan Cupid, personified by Master Douglas Adams, whose reading of the lines describing each member of the Club was excellent. These valentines, containing original verses, were composed by members of the Club.

Messrs. Joseph Hopkinson, Arthur Buckley, Joseph Gallagher and John Barry furnished the music for the occasion. Dainty and delicious refreshments, in keeping with the character of the party, were served.

Miss Florence F. Richards was the chaperon. The committee in charge consisted of Misses Ruth M. Hayes, Harriet Kelleher, Helen Griffin, and

Messrs. Merton H. Wheelock, David Hight and William Graham.

STAFF CLUB.

PROPOSALS.

The officers of the Staff Club gave unusually deep thought to the choice of a committee for the Leap Year Party. Miss Goldstein must be included, it was decided, since she has a gift for persuading fellow-members to donate loaves of cake. Then Miss Brackett is always enthusiastic about parties. Miss Anna Manning was willing to work hard and she held the fast-dwindling finances of the Club (have you paid your dues yet?). Furthermore, if we were to have theatricals, Miss Eleanor Mulcahy of the Fine Arts Department was indispensable. Never was there such a hand-picked committee!

Immediately, the Club secretary scurried about to collect a company to produce dramatic fragments illustrating leap-year methods and the truth of Kipling's dictum that "the female of the species is more deadly than the male!" There was only a week to prepare for the occasion. Rehearsals were held wherever there was a clear space in the building. The troupers roamed from the Staff Room to the Information Office, thence to the West Gallery, and finally to the Lecture Hall stage. En route, they learned lines and picked up "props."

Everyone seemed interested in the projected party. Loaves of cake were promised to the indefatigable Miss Goldstein. A few people (very few!) even sent their dues to Miss Manning. It promised to be an unusually successful Staff Club affair and then—(creepy music!) we were double-crossed by the weather man.

On February twentieth, the city of Boston was swept by the meanest blizzard in the history of the oldest (Library) inhabitant. Telegraph wires fell, street-car schedules went wrong. Worst of all, as Mr. William Graham, who had been added to the entertain-

ment committee, moaned: "The ice cream has been ordered!" Only entertainment committees realize how inevitable the ice-cream is—like death or the income tax. It was impossible to postpone the party. The party was not postponed.

At eight-thirty, Eastern Standard time, the curtain (loaned from North End Branch, through the kindness of Miss Curley) lifted on a room in Plymouth Colony, and John Alden entered to plead Captain Standish's cause with Priscilla. Mr. Lee Dunn and Miss Ruth Hayes were delightful Puritans, assisted by the spinning wheel which was a loan from T. D. Whitney Company. Mr. Winthrop Chenery and Miss Edith Daly then acted a bit from "Man and Superman" with speed and gusto, as Shaw *should* be acted. Finally the curtain rose on a charming English garden, provided through the assistance of Mr. James J. Kelley, who borrowed potted plants from a near-by florist; Mr. William Brewster and Miss Edith Von Schoppe were delightful in a scene from Wilde's "The Importance of Being Earnest." The audience was "small, but very enthusiastic."

M. E. P.

At the next meeting of the Staff Club, on Friday evening, March 28, Professor Robert E. Rogers, whose lectures on literature have been a source of so much pleasure and profit, will give a reading of selections—prose and poetry—from the works of American humorists. Those who have heard Professor Rogers read bits of this sort, in connection with his lectures, are eager for more. Come early, if you want a seat.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

THE PARTY.

The members of the Boston Public Library Benefit Association and their friends met at an informal dance and whist party at the Château Dansant on Wednesday evening, February 27. Besides securing one of the prettiest halls in Boston, an excellent orchestra, and

thirty-five attractive whist prizes, the committee introduced many novel features in honor of Leap Year.

In the grand march, at the head of some 150 couples, Judge Michael J. Murray, our Trustee, with Miss Mary McDonough, led off, followed by Mr. Frank H. Chase and Miss Guerrier. Mr. Mackin, of the Stock Room, received as first prize in whist a hand-woven basket, the work of Mrs. James Reay; another very attractive prize, a pair of hand-carved mahogany candlesticks, was the work—and the gift—of Mr. Reay. A fern and jardinière contributed by Fine, the florist, through Mr. James Kelley, was won, as second prize, by one of the guests, Mr. E. J. Hempe. To the winners in the prize dance, Miss Henrietta Temple, of the Fellowes Athenaeum Branch, and Mr. Prescott T. Dickey, went boxes of candy and cigars.

It was good to be able to help the Association in a way that so many could enjoy. The proceeds will be divided between the Emergency Fund and the fund for an entertainment to be given in the spring. To Mr. Louis E. Kirstein, Vice-President of our Board of Trustees, who generously sent to the Treasurer a check for fifty dollars, the Association extends its warmest gratitude.

THE SICK LIST.

The Chairman of the Relief Committee reports the illness of Misses Ellen F. Potts and Alice M. Morris of the Bindery, and the continued absence of Miss Caroline Curtis, Upham's Corner Branch; Miss Annie Heiman, North End Branch; Miss Mary Sheridan, Issue Department; Mr. Walter M. Leighton, Janitors' Department; Miss Elsie Coolidge, Catalogue Department; Miss Therese Masterson, Bindery; Miss Margaret Twomey, Issue Department; Miss Alice McEttrick, South End Branch; Miss Margaret Rooney, Brighton Branch; and Miss Mary Sullivan, Parker Hill Branch. We trust that the coming of spring will see the speedy return of all these members of the staff to their accustomed places among us.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume III, No. 7

April 15, 1924

CONTENTS.

STORY HOUR, 1902-1924	69	ALICE M. MORRIS	77
ANIMAL POSTERS	71	NEWS NOTES	78
EAST MEETS WEST	71	"A BIRD IN THE HAND"	80
BOOK-TITLES AS THEY ARE WROTE	72	NOTES FROM THE BRANCHES	80
DR. O'BRIEN'S DIME NOVELS	72	THE STRAVINSKY LECTURE	81
THE BYRON CENTENARY	74	AN IMPROVED NUMBERING SCHEME	82
THE HYDE PARK BRANCH	74	BOSTON GROUP OF CATALOGUERS	82
STACK MOVING	75	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION	82
DR. GRIGGS SPEAKS	75	MR. KENNEDY'S GIFT	83
MISS SHERIDAN	75	STAFF CLUB	83
EDITORIALS	76	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	84
MR. LOCKE AT EIGHTY	77		

STORY HOUR, 1902-1924.

It was in the fall of 1911 that the Boston Public Library took the first definite step toward making story telling one of the regular activities of its work for children, by engaging Mrs. John J. Cronan for a single weekly story hour, to be held in the South End Branch, to which she had been giving her services for a year. Not that it was the first story hour held in a library building, for volunteer workers had for a long time been telling stories to the clubs at the North End Branch, and before Mrs. Cronan came to Boston Mr. Whitman, with his vivid dramatizations, had held many a group of children breathless at the South End Branch.

At the Central Library, too, there were occasional holiday celebrations, starting with the wonderful Thanksgiving gathering in 1902, when Miss Shedlock made her first appearance before a fascinated Boston audience, and continuing with the graceful entertainments of Sara Cone Bryant for several years.

Nevertheless, the standardization of story telling, so as to insure work that the Library could approve, and its acceptance as a legitimate factor in work

with children, were first established in 1911.

A STEADY GROWTH.

The initial group at South End, so carefully watched and cherished by Miss Sheridan, has grown in thirteen years into a whole family of story hours, at least one for every branch, with a single exception. Wherever library accommodations are inadequate, story hours have been held during the last year in a school or schools in the vicinity, so that the children of every section of the city are now stimulated by listening to stories they might not otherwise know. In this way hundreds of children have been led to read such writers as Dickens, Scott, Stevenson and Kipling with enjoyment, they have responded to hero tales and learned to love great world classics more than they ever would by perfunctory reading for school credit.

Library story hours are well established all over the country; their value has been discussed many times. We believe, however, that the story hours held in the schools of Boston have certain features unlike the work conducted by any other library.

IN THE SCHOOLS.

A few years ago the story tellers,

Mrs. Cronan and her sister Mrs. Powers, went to certain schools at the request of a committee of the Chamber of Commerce, to whom story telling appeared as an important factor in a drive for better citizenship and the spread of American ideals.

When the Chamber of Commerce turned its attention to other activities, the Library continued this extension work, fully realizing the opportunity for making books spell recreation and delight to large numbers of children at one time. And requests for this service have come from one school after another, until this year thirty schools have been reached with terms of from two to sixteen periods each. There is reason for genuine satisfaction in knowing that no other outside institution has the privilege of entering the schools with equal freedom and with assurance of so warm a welcome, given, we know, because neither children nor teachers have been disappointed.

The children are so eager for stories that there is sometimes a temptation to use those that plead a cause, instead of "mere literature." A story teller was sent to a group of children and was rather gloomily received. "Can you tell real stories?" she was asked. "We don't have real stories here, only bread and milk fairies. Real stories ought to have princesses in them."

At another time a school was visited and fifth-grade children filed solemnly by, while the story teller wondered at the lack of any manifestation of pleasure. "Are you glad you are going to have stories?" she asked. "Oh, is it stories? I thought we were going to be told how to grow."

AN EAGER SCHOOL.

Every face in the classroom brightens when the story hour is announced. "When the story teller comes we jump for joy. All the week we wish and wish for them to come," wrote a boy from the William Eustis School in Roxbury.

We should like to take you to visit this school on a day when spring is in the air and sky, though the dusty street gives no hint of growing things anywhere. Two children will open the door of the brown old building. When

they see the story teller their faces grow radiant, they pat themselves with the gusto of an anticipated feast as they hasten to carry the news to the classroom, for these children have been "holding their thumbs" for a week in the hope that the story tellers will come again.

Spring is the time for the charming housecleaning story from Kenneth Grahame's "Wind in the Willows," and if the listeners can only guess the attractions of a river bank, at least they know the fun of a picnic and will follow the adventures of Mole and Ratty and Toad with hearty enthusiasm.

BUSY CHILDREN.

Why don't these children go to the story hour at the nearest Library if they love the stories so much? Here are some of the reasons: "I can't come to the story hour, for I have to go picking coal." "I have a sister to take care of, and my mother is working and my father is working, and I have to cook supper and get it ready, and my sister is small." "I am a newsboy and have to sell papers after school."

Children such as these can seldom go to the library to read, but its existence is firmly established in their minds, for it is the library that sends their beloved story tellers, and it is to the librarians that the children write when they learn that the ten or twelve week period is nearing its close. It makes one feel very hard-hearted to be obliged to refuse the eager pleas that the stories may continue throughout the year at each school.

Library story hours are valuable wherever there is a suitable room and sufficient help, because the attendance is voluntary. Each story hour represents a group of children who love books and stories enough to give up play and the movies for the joy of listening. The school story hour, on the other hand, strengthens the bond between school and library, enhancing the value of the book deposit and reaching hundreds of children who would have no connection with the Library otherwise. Both types of story hours are giving the most rewarding kind of extension work to the resources of the Boston Public Library. A. M. J.

ANIMAL POSTERS.

Did you visit the Fine Arts Exhibition Room during the week of April seventh? You did not? Well, how can I tell you what a treat you missed, especially you who love cats, adore dogs, idolize horses, rave over birds and are thrilled by lions and tigers. The whole animal kingdom, from the tiny sparrow to the elephant, came to visit us — not live ones, but as nearly alive as the young artists could make them. Weeping dogs, laughing cats, dancing horses, sick birds and thirsty chickens. The pets of the wealthy mingled with the stray dogs and cats of the street. Everyone was well cared for, in keeping with the slogan of the posters and the spirit of "Be Kind to Animals" Week.

The M. S. P. C. A. created this assemblage by offering over thirty cash prizes totalling \$400 (three times the amount given last year) for the best posters urging kindness to animals, made by the pupils of the public schools throughout Massachusetts.

The prizes were awarded for originality of design and excellence of execution. The awards were made in three class groups: High, Junior High, and Grammar Schools, with first, second and third prizes for each grade; the amounts ranged from \$5 to \$20.

The Society was well served in having as judges Mr. Walter Rowlands, of the Fine Arts Division of the Library, Miss Margaret Fitzhugh Browne, art critic, and Mr. William E. Putnam, architect.

E. M. M.

EAST MEETS WEST.

On March 12, under the auspices of the New England Poetry Club, Miss Amy Lowell was scheduled to talk on Carl Sandburg, in the Library Lecture Hall. The time of the lecture was four-thirty, but it began much earlier for the Information Office. From ten o'clock that morning — which was bitter cold and sleety in the best Boston manner — inquiries poured in over the telephone.

"Yes, Miss Lowell is to speak this afternoon. At four-thirty, yes."

"No, the lecture will not be postponed on account of the weather. No, indeed!"

(That inquirer must be a foreigner. Any native Bostonian would know that a *free lecture* would not be postponed, though a blizzard met a typhoon and swept the city.)

Shortly after one, the audience began to drift into the Information Office. Like all Boston Public Library lecture audiences, it suffered from astigmatism. How else explain such people's habit of overlooking the two enormous signs in the front hall, which direct one to Boylston Street and the rightful entrance to the Lecture Hall?

GROUPS OF LECTURE-GOERS.

The early comers automatically divided themselves into three distinct groups. First, the pleasant elderly ladies who came because a Lowell was the speaker. The subject of the talk did not interest them very much. "Carl Sandburg? He's a poet, is he? Well, he must be correct if Miss Lowell intends to talk about him." Nevertheless, one saw in their dulled eyes, hereditary distrust of poets — unless, of course, they wore beards, and were old, like Mr. Whittier or *dear* Mr. Longfellow.

Then, there came a sprinkling of the neo-intellectuals, the people who once doted on Maeterlinck and Rabindranath Tagore, and now try to live it down. Horn spectacles, these wear; — and they form clubs to laud the genius of the author of "This Freedom." That afternoon the sister of the President of Harvard University was speaking, and that was enough for them.

The third group are those who come to lectures to get warm. They don't often evince much interest in either subject or lecturer. Though, in this case, one curious soul paused on the threshold of the Information Office and muttered, "Say, who is this Mamie Lowell?"

At four o'clock the hall was jammed. In addition to the three classes of chronic lecture-goers previously men-

tioned, were many who know poetry, know Carl Sandburg, and also Amy Lowell, as poet, critic and person. At four-fifteen late comers were being dissuaded from sitting on window ledges and standing in aisles.

VERS LIBRE.

There was a burst of applause when Miss Lowell appeared. She explained how *vers libre* has quite as much rhythm as conventional rhymed poetry, and often more. *Vers libre*, she insisted, is written to be read aloud. Only then does one get the shifting rhythm and color. She exemplified with a page of Sandburg's "Chicago," with its balanced phrasing, its adroit repetition of a central theme.

She traced in Sandburg's style the influence of Hans Andersen and the Bible. She pronounced him a greater poet than Whitman, who so often contents himself with merely cataloguing. Sandburg, Miss Lowell declared, has the *seeing* eye; to him all the things most people take for granted are fresh and new, and subjects for poetry.

After reading selections from "Chicago Poems," Miss Lowell amused her audience with a denunciation of Sandburg's earlier sociological and political ideas. He is gradually sloughing these off, she disclosed. However, his sense of pity is so strong that we can bear with the "millionaires" who clutter his earlier books. If he sees clearly, he feels keenly the things we overlook or accept cynically.

Miss Lowell's hearers particularly liked the selections from "Cornhuskers," which emphasizes Sandburg's great love for his own prairie country.

"Rivers cut a path on flat lands.

The mountains stand up.

The salt oceans press in,

And push on the coast lines.

The sun, the wind, bring rain

And I know what the rainbow writes
Across the east or west in a half-circle:

A love-letter pledge to come again."

Page after page like this, read in a pleasant New England voice, which by understatement emphasizes the emotional content, sets one's heart beating in a manner not strictly Bostonian.

Great writing, the critics tell us, requires a great interpreter. And Carl Sandburg, on that particular afternoon, was fortunate in this respect. M. E. P.

BOOK-TITLES AS THEY ARE WROTE.

Those who do not handle the call-slips sent to the Library have little notion of the amount of imagination often required in puzzling them out. The following examples, if not typical, are at least not unique. Can you guess them all?

"THOROUGH'S Cape Cod."

"Have you a good copy of the Memoirs of B. SELEENIE?"

"HERODOTUS — Lives of the Twelve Caesars."

"POOR PLUTO'S CRATS by Jokai."

"Return to a Lost Faith by AGNES-NOSTIC."

"I want the STAR BOOK of Plumbing."

"Please send me Einstein's Theory of REVOLUTION."

"Play BEN VENUTO by ARTHINTO."

"Will you please send me a book containing MARSHALL'S Epigrams and Satires?"

"Dr. John Ryan's book SOCRATES — Promise or Menace."

"AMERICAN CIVILIZATION by Bock,"

C. F.

DR. O'BRIEN'S DIME NOVELS.

Through the generosity of Dr. Frank P. O'Brien of New York, who lent to the Library the large and interesting collection of Dime Novel literature recently shown in the Exhibition Room, several original "Beadles" have been added to the treasures of the institution.

The New York Public Library, in a pamphlet which describes the collection as it was exhibited there, gives an interesting account of the prowess of Erastus F. Beadle, the enterprising printer of Otsego County, New York. We are told of his preliminary work

as editor and publisher of a successful magazine, "The Home Monthly;" the appearance of the song book, a collection of popular ditties, offered at the price of ten cents; and finally the first issue of the Beadle books themselves, sold for a dime apiece, the original "yellow-backs." These were a success from the start; the Woolworth idea was apparently no less potent in 1859 than in our day. And the earlier ones, at least, possessed qualities which were quite as seductive as the low price — the spirit of pioneer American life in the West, still inexhaustible for literary purposes if we are to believe Mrs. Honoré Willsie; the spirit of patriotism, as shown in the heroic deeds of Americans on the battlefield and the sea throughout our history; chivalry and valor at the boiling point, — all put forth by the most skilful popular writers of the day, edited by the capable O. J. Victor, and published in attractive covers by the house of Beadle & Co.

PERNICIOUS INFLUENCE?

Perhaps the word attractive, used of a Beadle Dime Novel, is too mild. Attractive is hardly sufficient to describe a thing that possessed a deadly lure, that was supposed to entice boys away from good orthodox homes, to drive fathers and mothers to the brink of despair, and to stir the ministers to denunciation from their pulpits. Our New York colleague speaks of the influence of these little books on our national thought, life, and habits of mind. Perhaps there was such an influence. But as we look at the men past middle age to-day, matter-of-fact husbands and fathers, who were the boys of sixty years ago, it seems difficult to imagine that the course of their lives was altered or materially affected by any reading of so-called "trash."

Yet many of these grizzled men of to-day were sixty years ago little fellows with blouses and jackets buttoned tightly over copies of the latest weekly issue of "Old Zip, the sleuth" or "Ned, the boy trapper." With two or three neighbors they would wait till the family's evening meal was finished and the hired girl had gone upstairs, leaving

only an oil lamp burning on the kitchen table, when the concealed copies of the latest Beadle publications could be brought out, read and discussed, perhaps for a whole evening. One boy's mother could see no harm in them, so his friends would come to his house and read in the kitchen. But the parents of another boy were extremely unsympathetic — he could not see why, for his mother read about Cooper's Indians; and what was the difference, anyway? Then there was the boy whose mother said plainly that she would burn every one of those books just as often as she found him reading one of them. That boy had to go to the neighbors' to read.

Instead of tame existence at home, where a boy had to sit up straight at the table, keep his hands clean and not interrupt, and wait till his plate was passed to him, here was real life among the savages, where a youth who had escaped from a massacred settlement fell in with a friendly redskin and was taken to live in an Indian village, where he soon became a pal of the chief's son, was given a rifle of his own, a bow and arrow, rode a pony bareback, hunted, fished, slept in the open, and wore a cap of skins and a suit with trousers edged with fringe. The Boy Scouts attend to all this now. But in the 1860's romance came hard for a boy.

DECAMPING BOYS.

Then would come the morning when it was learned that two of those who had sat reading absorbedly by the lamp on the kitchen table had suddenly been overwhelmed by the longing to cut away from reality and had left home the night before on the New York train. One of the parents, a deacon, had been obliged to leave his business for a day and go after them. "It's those books," the neighbors said; "reading dime novels is at the bottom of this." But whatever it was, the bottom soon dropped out of the expedition and two sheepish-looking culprits returned from New York in the custody of the deacon, whose methods for locating lost children in the great metropolis seem to have been wonderfully effective.

Looking at the little Beadle books and thinking of the havoc that they are supposed to have wrought, one cannot but feel a certain similarity between the situation then and that of our own day, with its talk of flappers and movies and bobbed hair. Youth, bounding, joyous, foolish, full of impossible longings, we have with us as then, and always in the background lurks middle-age ready to say, NO!

C. H.

THE BYRON CENTENARY.

For the centenary of the day (April 19, 1824) when Lord Byron died at Missolonghi, in Greece, the Library is exhibiting a number of first and early editions of the works of the great English poet. The exhibition is arranged in the Barton Room of the Library and comprises many rare and valuable volumes. The first Boston and other early American editions are of special interest to visitors.

The first book of Byron printed in America was a small form edition of "The Corsair," published by West and Blake, in Boston, in 1814. In the same year was published the first London edition, of which the publisher sold ten thousand copies on the day of its issue. But a more interesting proof of Byron's popularity is found, perhaps, in another American edition of the "Domestic Pieces," printed in Glens Falls, in 1820. The small booklets, in quaint type and on yellow paper, must have a special fascination for any book-lover. As early as 1814, a complete edition of Byron's works, in two volumes, had already been published in Boston by Cummings and Hilliard. The Library possesses several copies of these books, most of them of the year of first publication, and some in the first edition.

A note in the handwriting and with the signature of Byron, asking Mr. Hanson to pay the sum of twenty pounds to Wm. Fletcher, is also shown among the books. The date of the note is Nov. 12, 1811; it was written just about three months after the return of the poet from the Orient. On the back of the note Mr. Fletcher duly acknowledges the receipt of the pounds

for his lordship, who was rather "hard up" at that time. Wm. Fletcher was the life-long valet of Byron, who accompanied the poet on all his journeys, and it was to him that the poet addressed his last words on his death-bed at Missolonghi.

Z. H.

THE HYDE PARK BRANCH.

The following is reprinted, by courteous permission, from the *Boston Evening Transcript*, of March 19.

The Hyde Park Public Library is this month celebrating its fiftieth birthday. At a town meeting held in 1871 (according to Miss Ainsworth, for years the librarian), three years after the incorporation of the town, a committee was appointed to begin a movement in favor of a public library. Subscriptions were obtained, a fair was held, a course of lectures and several other entertainments were given, including one by the public schools, as the result of which more than \$6000 was raised as a library fund. The first meeting of this committee was held in the library of Alanson Hawley, who at that time presented them with over one hundred new and valuable volumes which may be regarded as the foundation of the library.

In the report of the committee presented in 1872 at the annual town meeting a detailed account was given of the work they had done and they recommended that the board of selectmen, the school committee, the town treasurer and the town clerk be appointed a committee for the nomination of a library board, and the following-named members, the majority of them on the committee, were appointed: Theodore D. Weld, Rev. Isaac H. Gilbert, Rev. Perley B. Davis, Rev. E. A. Manning, Edward M. Lancaster, Hobart M. Cable, Rev. W. J. Corcoran, Mrs. Mary H. Hunt and E. S. Hathaway. Mrs. Hunt declined to serve, and C. W. W. Wellington was chosen in her place. Upon them devolved the task of creating a library, of purchasing books, electing a librarian and finding a suitable room.

The library was first opened in March, 1874, in the westerly end of the second story of the brick block at the corner of West River Street and what was then called Hyde Park Avenue, now known as Harvard Avenue. In 1883, it was removed to the westerly end of the second story of the brick block nearly opposite its first quarters and adjoining the Episcopal Church. These rooms, which seemed ample when they were secured, were soon outgrown, and the space required for books gradually encroached upon the reading room.

After long and patient effort on the part of the trustees and others interested in the welfare of the library, the town voted an appropriation of \$25,000 in December, 1898, and instructed the trustees to erect a build-

ing at the corner of Harvard Avenue and Winthrop Street. Subsequently, before the building had been begun, the town voted \$6500 more for the purchase of additional land adjoining the original site, and still later, \$2500 for furniture and fixtures. With this money and the library fund already in their hands, the trustees erected the library building which was first opened to the public use in September, 1899.

The first librarian was William E. Foster, than a recent graduate of Brown University, who for many years past has been widely known as the efficient head of the public library at Providence, R. I.

Upon his resignation in 1876, after two years of service, the library was temporarily in charge of J. J. Reeves, who was followed later in the same year by Mrs. H. A. B. Thompson, who remained in charge for a little over twenty years. During her long service she saw the library, whose interests she had so much at heart, nearly treble its number of volumes and greatly increase its circulation. She was a wide reader of excellent taste and judgment, who was able to render valuable assistance to the trustees in the selection of books, and to give good counsel to such patrons of the library as consulted her as to their choice of reading.

She was followed in 1896 by Miss Elizabeth Ainsworth, a graduate of Mt. Holyoke, who was recently retired from active work but whose heart, hopes, and interest are closely bound up with the progress of the library, which has been, however, a branch of the Boston Public Library since 1912, when Hyde Park became part of Greater Boston. Miss Grace L. Murray is the present librarian.

STACK MOVING.

In the February issue we gave a brief account of some of the changes in the stacks. At a later date we hope to print a complete directory of the new locations, but a few words may be said now as to current changes. Since the previous notice Stack Six Annex has been completed and the new lights are nearly all in place.

Stack Five Annex is the present scene of activity; the 35's, 55's, and 75's are being arranged there, some coming from Stack Four and others from Stack Four Annex. The Blagden Street side of Stack Four has been cleared of books, leaving only empty shelves at present. So the changes go on.

How many of the staff, we wonder, know that the shelving of each floor of the Annex extends half a mile beyond that of a regular stack floor?

DR. GRIGGS SPEAKS.

Dr. Edward Howard Griggs spoke to the Branch librarians Friday morning, April 4, on the subject, "The Need of Humanistic Culture." Dr. Griggs said that he was very glad of the opportunity to speak to the Branch librarians because they represented one of the best forces of true culture in the world; that one inspiring teacher is worth more to the students than all the teaching itself, and the same is true with librarians. He spoke on methods of education in different countries, bringing out the fact that the chief emphasis of education is laid to-day on the practical, rather than the cultural. One interesting fact which he pointed out was that in Germany the parent used to be obliged to decide the future of the child when the child was but nine years old, thus having as an aim not the development of the individual, but the training of each boy alike for the Empire. In summarizing his viewpoint on humanistic culture, he stressed the supreme importance in education of history and literature. History is the record of what men have done. Literature, with the other arts, is the expression of what they want to do.

MISS SHERIDAN.

On the last day of March, Miss Sheridan came back to her desk in the Issue Department after an absence of six months. Her friends in the Library celebrated the occasion with an array of flowers, and the public gave many evidences of their satisfaction at the return of one on whom they have long depended.

Miss Sheridan's public is worth more than a passing word. It is a personal affair with them and with her, and its range is extensive, — all the way from John Drew and the members of the Lowell family to the helpless little boy in search of reading for his mother.

Both the Library and the public are to be congratulated that Miss Sheridan is at her post once more.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Associate Editors.

MARION A. MCCARTHY

HARRY W. MATHEWS

WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY

MARY E. PRIM
HARRIET SWIFT

Vol. III, No. 7.

April 15, 1924

TESTING OURSELVES.

This is the season of examinations. The Library calls those who seek appointment or promotion to prove their fitness by a test. Some pass, and are appointed; some fail, and have to wait. Those who fail are apt to think that examinations are capricious things, at best, and that passing is more or less a matter of luck. At least, they often know that they are better qualified for promotion than some of those who pass.

Examinations are certainly fallible; no means has ever been devised that would prove beyond a question the fitness or unfitness of candidates for a position. But that does not mean that they have no value.

The value lies largely in the fact that the examination demands from those who present themselves a real effort to show the best that is in them. It makes us pull ourselves together, and stand up with our fellows to be judged. Have we the nerve? Have we the ability to concentrate our powers for a brief period? Can we stop drifting, or marking time, and make ourselves face the music and take a step forward? It is a good thing for each of us to know; if we have lost that power, it is time we were doing something about it.

Human nature resents examinations because they are imposed from without. But we ought to take the examination as an opportunity to renew our grip, we should welcome it as an excuse for getting ourselves in hand

again, and freshening our mental and nervous fibre. Every machine — an elevator, a steam engine, any device on which we depend for real work — must be tested periodically, in order to make sure that it is not losing its tone; we should reproach ourselves severely if we neglected these tests of the inanimate servants which carry our loads for us. They must not be allowed to run down. But what about ourselves? Have we no duty to maintain our own tone?

The Library's life depends upon its personnel, far more than on its machinery; and we are guilty of even greater neglect if we fail to apply to ourselves and our powers tests quite as rigorous and as frequent as those which we give to the elevator or the boiler. Only when we seek promotion does the Library require us to take a formal test, or set a mark for us to reach. Let us welcome these examinations, as a means of measuring our growth by an external standard. But let us not stop there. The man or woman who would succeed in life regards each new task as a challenge—a call to measure up to a higher standard, to prove a fresh extension of his powers. It is a fine thing to advance from grade to grade in the Library service; it is a finer thing to conquer a hard task, to bring oneself in subjection to a standard self-imposed.

Tests are useful, they are a means of growth. They reveal to us our own powers, and show us whether we are progressing as we ought to do. Failure to pass at the first trial may be an accident, or it may be due to our unfamiliarity with the technique of examinations; repeated failure has a deeper reason—it is like a physical examination which teaches us that we need to build up some weak part by systematic exercise. We all have the power of growth; it is, in most cases, our own fault if we lose it.

The time will come when we shall need it—shall need every ounce of power that we have been able to acquire. Examinations set by man are child's play, compared to the cruel tests that life sets to every man or woman, sooner or later. When we are really "up

against it," we appreciate the training that we have given ourselves while we still had the chance. Test yourself often, if you would be ready for the big tests that none of us can escape. "Know thyself"—the dictum of the wisest of the Greeks—means, keep trying yourself out.

LIBRARY LIFE is glad to report that Miss Joy Higgins, who won the admiration and gratitude of the entire staff by her resource and patience in the production of the Christmas pageant, has recovered from a serious illness, which confined her for weeks to the hospital. She is as full of enthusiasm as ever, and has most interesting plans for further pageantry next fall.

A MEMORIAL.

The tablet to our representatives in the World War is at last to be a reality. The design was completed long ago—the sculptor has done his part. It has been approved as a work of art, and it remained only for the staff, in turn, to do their part. But the money came slowly; we seemed in some way to feel little responsibility for carrying through to completion the generous impulse which we had when the boys came back to work. At last, however, by the action of the Benefit Association, the way has been cleared, and we may expect to see the tablet erected at no distant date.

It may or may not have been strictly constitutional for the Association to appropriate the money from its funds to pay the balance due the sculptor for the work which we had invited him to do for us. But it is certainly right for us to meet our obligations. If it was proper for us to start the movement for such a memorial—and no one will question that—it is proper for us to finish it. When constitutional niceties have been forgotten, the tablet, erected by the staff, will stand to commemorate the men who went to war for us. LIBRARY LIFE is wholly glad that this obligation is at last to be fulfilled honorably. The Association has conferred a benefit upon the whole Library.

MR. LOCKE AT EIGHTY.

On Thursday, March 27, Mr. John F. Locke, long a member of the Catalogue Department, celebrated his eightieth birthday. The years sit lightly on Mr. Locke, and the heart under his white suit is a young one.

It was perfectly proper that so important an occasion should be marked by a celebration. For two days, March 26 and 27, Mr. and Mrs. Locke kept open house at their home, No. 3 Elmont Street, Dorchester, and scores of friends trooped to pay tributes of affection to the kind old man who has always smiled on life, no matter how threatening it might look.

Among the visitors were many of Mr. Locke's Library associates. As we turned the street corner, we recognized the home of our patriot friend by the handsome American flag hanging over the entrance. We found Mr. Locke surrounded by flowers, sent from far and near, and deluged with letters and notes; "It will take me three weeks to get through them," was his proud comment, as he held up the bunches of envelopes. Cakes of all sizes and colors and types of frosting—cakes with candles and cakes with wreaths about them—were there too, and the guests were urged to sample them all. We signed our names in a birthday book, and received Mr. Locke's blessing as we went. It was a happy occasion—one more milestone in a serene journey. LIBRARY LIFE offers to Mr. Locke, on behalf of the staff, its hearty congratulations.

ALICE M. MORRIS.

Miss Alice M. Morris, of 45 Sheridan Street, Jamaica Plain, for fifteen years a member of the Bindery Department, died on Saturday, April 5, at the Boston City Hospital after an illness of five weeks. Her death was a severe shock to her associates, coming as it did after she seemed well on the road to recovery.

Aside from her work in the Bindery Department, Miss Morris had been active in the Benefit Association, as one

of its Entertainment Committee, and also as a member of the Relief Committee for a number of years. An important outside affiliation was her membership in the Jamaica Plain Court, Daughters of America.

Miss Morris will be greatly missed by those who came in daily contact with her, for she had the gift of sympathy and helpfulness, added to a disposition warm-hearted and cheerful. One of her dominant characteristics was her love of animals and birds. She had their welfare at heart and to her they owe many a meal, when winter weather made it impossible for them to fend for themselves.

Funeral services were held in the Church of the Blessed Sacrament, Jamaica Plain, where Miss Morris's library friends paid fitting tribute, both by their presence and by their beautiful floral offering. Monsignor Arthur T. Connolly sang a Solemn High Mass of Requiem. Interment was made at Calvary Cemetery.

NEWS NOTES.

LIBRARY LIFE is happy to announce that His Honor the Mayor has appointed Mr. Louis E. Kirstein a Trustee of the Library for a term of five additional years, beginning April 30, 1924.

Everybody in the Library is glad that at last our good friends, the faithful women who keep the building clean, have been put on a weekly basis of employment. On Friday, March 7, nineteen women were given this new status, under the supervision of Mrs. Katharine C. McGrath, who was appointed Housekeeper of the Library on March 28. It is of interest to note that one of the women, Miss Minnie Otto, has worked in the Library by the hour ever since September, 1897.

On March 31, the following members of the Staff were retired:

Miss Mary Rollins, editor, at her own request.

Mr. Walter M. Leighton, night watchman, under the provisions of the

disability clause of the Boston Retirement Act.

The engagement of Mr. George W. Gallagher of the Bindery to Miss Mary O'Malley, of Brookline, has recently been announced.

The announcement of the marriage of Mr. Charles Mackin to Miss Gertrude Calnan, of Roxbury, on April 22 has been received. Mr. Mackin is the brother of Mr. Timothy Mackin, the Library's Custodian of Stock, and was formerly employed in the Branch Department.

On Tuesday evening, March 25, a group of forty young ladies from the Central Library descended upon Miss Virginia Tint at her home in Roxbury, and gave her a surprise shower in anticipation of her coming marriage. The young ladies furnished their own entertainment, and it is needless to say that a delightful time was the result.

On April 5, Mr. Michael Cadigan, police officer attached to the Central Library, died at his home in Brighton after a month's illness. The funeral services were held in St. Columbkille's Church, Brighton, on April 8, at 9 a.m. Many library employees were present.

Miss Elizabeth Barry, of the Catalogue Department, resigned from the service of the Library on Saturday, March 22. On this occasion she was presented with a handsome bouquet of flowers and a gold Parker-Dunn writing set, consisting of a fountain pen and an eversharp pencil. Miss Barry, who is a member of the Massachusetts Bar, will enter on the practice of law in Boston.

Mr. John J. O'Brien, of the Bindery, has received word that Shapiro Bernstein, Inc., of New York City, one of the largest publishing houses of popular music in the world, has purchased the rights to his latest song, "O'Grady's Radio."

Miss Blanche Williams, a graduate of the University of Michigan and a student in the New York State Libra-

ry School, has been doing her field practice work during the month of March in the Music Division of the Library. Her assistance was valuable and LIBRARY LIFE hopes that her stay with us was profitable to her.

Mr. William F. A. Graham, of the Catalogue Room, has a leading part in a three-act musical comedy, entitled "Hunting for Hawkins," to be given in St. Mary's Theatre on April 28, 29 and 30.

In recognition of the ninetieth birthday of President Emeritus Charles W. Eliot, a fine portrait of him was placed on the landing of the main stairway of the Library. It was flanked by palms and below it was a card inscribed:

Ninetieth Birthday!
Charles William Eliot

March 20, 1834

Preëminent as Thinker, Educator,
Citizen

His Excellency, the Governor, has recently appointed Mr. Abraham Snyder, of the Catalogue Department, a Notary Public.

In the *Boston Transcript* for February 19, there appeared an excellent reproduction of Charles Bittinger's beautiful painting of the main stairway of the Library, which was a feature of Mr. Bittinger's recent exhibition at the Guild of Boston Artists.

On March 11, the New York Chapter, Sons of the American Revolution, loaned to the Fine Arts Department a collection of handsomely written and framed tributes to Franklin; also autograph letters from many noted Americans in honor of the great printer philosopher. These were exhibited in the exhibition room for over a week.

Interest in the centenary of the first performance of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony was reflected in an exhibition in the Music Room of the Boston Public Library, where Mr. Appel had gathered together a variety of material

on the history and musical significance of this great composition.

On Saturday forenoon, April 5, fifty students of the New York State Library School at Albany, on their annual spring pilgrimage, visited the Library, under the leadership of Miss Edna Sanderson, of the School faculty. Mr. Belden addressed the party in the Trustees' Room, and they were then conducted over the building by members of the Library staff.

A most interesting exhibition of mounted birds, kindly lent by the Children's Museum of Jamaica Plain, may be seen in the case in our Children's Room. There are twenty-two specimens of the taxidermist's art in this collection. The types range from the well-known robin and sparrow, to the less familiar junco and grackle. Each specimen is labeled, and the case is very attractive; in fact, this has been by far the most popular exhibit of the year.

Miss Macurdy received the Book Review Committee of the Greater Boston Neighborhood Group of Librarians in the Trustees' Room on the afternoon of March 12. This Committee, consisting of some ten librarians, meets weekly at the State House for the discussion of current books.

For the occasion of St. Patrick's Day there was an exhibition of old Irish books in the Barton Room. Seventeenth century parliamentary speeches, acts and ordinances were shown, along with broadsides of popular songs and old Gaelic prose and verse collections. The fine copy of the Gaelic Bible attracted the attention of many a visitor. (The Library possesses the first edition of the Old Testament and the second edition of the New Testament in Gaelic.) For its issue of March 15, *The Boston Transcript* published an article descriptive of the exhibition.

Miss Jordan addressed the Wollaston Mothers' Club on March 13. Her subject was "What are our children reading?"

The exhibition of Beadle dime novels in the Library, referred to elsewhere, attracted wide attention, and called forth a number of articles in the newspapers, among them one in the *Sunday Post* for March 16 with the "scarehead" title, "Cactus Joe Rescued from Woodshed," and another in the *Transcript* for March 11, entitled "Dime Thrillers of Other Days."

Mr. John Cray, of the Sunday and evening force, has been ill at his home for several weeks but is expected to return to work soon.

"A BIRD IN THE HAND IS
WORTH TWO ON THE
STAIRCASE."

On the morning of March 27, two pigeons left the chilly breezes of the courtyard and, finding a window conveniently open, sought warmth and shelter on the Main Staircase. The next day they were joined by an envious friend and the trio had a merry time of it, eluding various traps and snares. They flew about from place to place, even alighting on the head of one of the lions. One of the Library wits, when asked why his fertile brain did not furnish some scheme for catching them, retorted "I am going down to the lunch room now to borrow some salt."

However, not salt but the humble peanut turned the trick, and, as usual, it was a woman who baited the trap and gave the birds their freedom.

H. W. M.

NOTES FROM THE BRANCHES.

ANDREW SQUARE: The camels have departed from Andrew Square and are on their way to Orient Heights. In the Andrew Square window Fujiyama now rears its snowy crest. At the base of this volcano cheery little Japanese people walk about the wall-paper grass in front of wonderful plum trees, made of dried excelsior in a most realistic fashion. The libraries are learning much from the project work of the schools.

CHARLESTOWN: An interesting display of wheat and wheat products from Canada has been arranged in the Children's Alcove by Miss Boudreau and Miss Tint. Samples of the different kinds of grain are exhibited with the finished products, a map shows the territory in which the wheat was raised, and a bookcase, nearby, holds books of Canadian fiction and travel. The exhibition deserves the attention of all those who use wheat in any of its forms.

EAST BOSTON: The Branch has a set of posters with the following captions:

People worth knowing.
Books on the drama.
Books for housekeepers.
Read a poem a day.

These posters, surmounted by a heading which reads "Ask for the books upstairs," are exhibited in the window for two weeks. Books on the four subjects advertised are placed on a shelf over the fire-place, each subject for a period of one-half week.

FANEUIL: At Faneuil the new cases in the gallery have been painted, electricity has been installed and the librarian is now engaged in collecting a supply of fiction for this new and attractive browsing-place.

MATTAPAN: In order to demonstrate the fact that Mattapan is a good-sized place, with extensive connections, the librarian has the World in her front window, in the form of a large globe, from which streamers run to books of travel in the different countries.

NORTH END: On Wednesday evening, April 9, the Department of Massachusetts Patriotic Aides of the Women's Relief Corps presented the North End Branch with a beautiful silk flag. The gift was gratefully acknowledged in letters from the Director and the President of the Board of Trustees.

PARKER HILL: During the past year, work with the nurses in the Parker Hill, Peter Bent Brigham, Children's and three or four private hospitals in the vicinity has increased materially. This branch of the work began only

last year, but it has steadily developed, until it is now an important element in the library's activity.

SOUTH END: The weekly story hour is now being conducted in the gallery of the auditorium of the John J. Williams building, in which the library is situated. For a long time the story hour has been held in the library room, where it seriously interfered with the peace and quiet of adult readers. After unsuccessful attempts to find another suitable place the matter was brought to the attention of the South End Women's Assembly. They interested themselves at once and in an audience with His Honor, the Mayor, on March 19, obtained permission for the branch library to use the gallery. The first story hour was held here on March 21, with very satisfactory results.

TYLER STREET: At Tyler Street Branch one of the alcoves has been partitioned off and will be used as a small rest room. It is just about large enough for a couch.

WARREN STREET: The architect of the new high school on Townsend Street, Roxbury, recently brought in the finished plans for that part of the building which is to be occupied by the Warren Street Branch. The librarian of the Branch can hardly wait for May, 1926, the time scheduled for going into what we believe will prove to be one of the most effectively planned branch libraries in the system. The furnishings, which are to be installed by the Library Bureau, are very complete and satisfactory. The architect paid the Branch librarian the courtesy of allowing her to make suggestions in regard to the floor plans for the library and also in regard to the furnishings. On the main floor there will be a room for children, a room for adults and a very comfortable little office for the librarian. In the basement there will be a large lecture hall, with stage and dressing rooms, a room for a photograph file, a work room, a luncheon room and a locker room.

WEST END: Miss Lucy B. Stearns, of 58 Pinckney Street, exhibited some rare and unusual photographs of Rome

at both West End and North End Branches during the month of March.

WEST ROXBURY: The West Roxbury Women's Club held a Book Review meeting at the West Roxbury Branch on Thursday April 3. The meeting, with Travel as its subject, was in charge of Miss Guerrier, who distributed lists of "One Hundred Books of Travel."

THE STRAVINSKY LECTURE.

On Saturday, April 5, Mr. Laurence V. Powell, Mus. Bac., gave an exposition, with piano-player illustrations, of Igor Stravinsky's "Le Sacre du Printemps." The event was of special significance because of the advanced position the composer has reached in this work. It is conceded to be the most important musical production of the twentieth century thus far, and it requires a special preparation on the part of the listener to get its message, for if its language is music it is certainly of an unusual dialect.

The Library was particularly fortunate in obtaining the services of Mr. Powell, a graduate of the University of Birmingham, England. With his teacher, Granville Bantock, Mr. Powell has made extensive studies into the technical methods of modern composers and was well qualified to appear before his large audience.

The immediate cause of the lecture was the repetition of the work by the Boston Symphony Orchestra scheduled for April 11-12. The first performance in January had caused quite a sensation, and the patrons of symphony concerts and other prominent musicians evidently appreciated an opportunity to become better informed for, as the *Transcript* reported, "As another sign of the times and of the inclinations of a substantial public, fifteen minutes before Mr. Powell began his talk it was necessary to close the doors, because not a foot of standing-room remained."

The lecturer gave a brief outline of Stravinsky's career, and showed that "Le Sacre du Printemps" was the logical outgrowth of his aesthetic principles. He said the music was practically a suite of thirteen pieces and he

gave an analysis of each movement, indicating its special features as regards harmony, orchestration and form. After the detailed examination each movement was played through on the player-piano. Mr. Powell showed a thorough grasp of his material and presented it in an attractive and informal manner.

Those who attended the succeeding performances at Symphony Hall testified to the great value of the lecture in increasing their understanding and appreciation of the work, on which Mr. Monteux has set great store. R. G. A.

AN IMPROVED NUMBERING SCHEME.

The books of the Technology Division are now receiving numbers on a somewhat new plan. Under this scheme the same call-number is assigned to *all copies* of a given work, the *added editions* being distinguished by the addition of the letters R, S, T, etc., and the duplicate copies of any one edition by the letters A, B, C, etc., as has been customary. A concrete example may make this clearer:

Stoughton: Iron and steel. 1908.	8025.143
— Same. Copy 2.	8025.143A
— Same. 2nd ed. 1915.	8025.143R
— Same. Copy 2.	8025.143RA
— Same. 3d ed. 1918.	8025.143S

The great advantage of this plan is that all copies of a book are *shelved together*, and the reader has only to note *one number* on his call-slip to insure his getting some copy of the desired work, if any are available. The runners are instructed to bring another copy if the exact number called for is "not on shelf." In addition, the "indicator" work, shelf-listing and shelf-reading are considerably simplified. The "edition letter" was selected well down in the alphabet, in order to allow plenty of "copy letters" for books of which the Library has many copies.

The new plan is the first successful attempt to escape from the tyranny of a shelf-list in which each number has a line, with no space for additions on either side of it. G. S. M.

BOSTON GROUP OF CATALOGUERS AND CLASSIFIERS.

The members of the Boston Group met for dinner in the rooms of the Twentieth Century Club, Boston, April 3, 1924. Sixty-seven members representing twenty-seven libraries were present. Dr. Winthrop H. Chenery, Chief of the Department of Special Libraries, Boston Public Library, read an interesting paper, "A Tilt at the Dictionary Catalogue," which aroused spirited opposition among those members who did not accept his championship of the classed catalogue. The second part of the program was the "Cataloguer's Day," an attempt to find out what cataloguing is and what a cataloguer does, as exemplified in the routine of various types of libraries. The following cataloguers took part: Miss Ethelwyn Manning, Amherst College Library; Miss M. Hannah Wait, Harvard College Library; Miss Jessie K. Knowlton, Massachusetts State Library; Mr. Lucien E. Taylor, Boston Public Library; Miss Caroline Whittemore, Brookline Public Library; Miss Isabel Dunn, Lynn Public Library.

Votes were taken in answer to a set of questions specially prepared to bring out the definition of cataloguing. The replies, which are in process of tabulation, indicate a general agreement that the knowledge of the catalogue often involves the cataloguer in the work of other departments, but that cataloguing itself consists in identifying the author; showing the subject of the book when the title fails to do so; connecting the book with its other editions, if any; and determining the references under which the reader is likely to seek the book.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION.

Mr. Handy, librarian of the Insurance Library Association of Boston, opened his attractive rooms at 18 Oliver Street for the meeting of the Association on the evening of March 31. In the absence of Mr. Briggs, Mr.

Handy also acted as President and added to his welcome a brief résumé of the Insurance Library Association's activities in the fields of fire and casualty insurance.

The program of the meeting, announced as a "Shop talk," was turned over to the chairman of the Methods Committee, Mr. Lee, who described the work of that committee and enumerated the sponsorships allotted to its individual members — discards, continuation, labor-saving devices, publishers' lists, and indexes.

Mr. Lee also announced a beginning toward the long-heralded Union catalogue: Miss Mabel F. Reed has been employed for a period of three months to make a survey of local special library resources. Miss Reed explained her plan to use the present "Directory of Special Libraries in Boston and Vicinity" as a basis of her survey, and to visit the smaller libraries first in an effort to locate material ordinarily little known.

MR. KENNEDY'S GIFT.

Somebody once remarked that of the many gifts and bequests made to this Library, hardly one had come to us for the asking. In other words, direct effort on the part of the Library to secure benefits for itself has been strangely unproductive of results.

As far back as Mr. Putnam's régime, it was thought that a definite campaign for gifts might be undertaken with profit. Accordingly Mr. Putnam planned to attend a round of dinners and important public occasions where a good word for the Library might yield something in return. The result, so far as could be learned, was nil. Yet gifts have continued to come to us from one source or another. Mr. Billings, a man of business, after a lifetime in our midst, thought us worthy of one hundred thousand dollars. Out in Chicago, Miss Victorine Artz decided that the Public Library, not of the Lake City, but of Boston, should be the richer for a gift of ten thousand dollars. Viewed in a certain light, the gifts seem to be without motive. Viewed in another, the explanation

seems to be that we are judged faithful servants of the public, and from time to time, through the years, certain members of that public, unsolicited, have deemed us worthy to be recipients of a portion of their treasure.

It is a comfortable thought and not an idle one. Mr. Daniel Edwards Kennedy, of Chestnut Hill, has proved this to us recently. Mr. Kennedy is a Yale graduate who discovered himself to Mr. Blaisdell by saying that he had been a user of the Library for many years; that he had benefited often from the courtesy of its employees; and that he wished to show his appreciation of our services in tangible form. He therewith proffered Mr. Blaisdell a check for the Benefit Association. Our gratitude is deeper because the gift was spontaneous and a recognition of real merit on our part.

STAFF CLUB

Professor Robert E. Rogers in "Readings from American Humorists" was the treat provided by the Staff Club for its members on Friday evening, March 28. Professor Rogers, whose pithy comments in his literature classes are often so delightfully touched with humor, was just the man to introduce us most happily to the work of American humorists.

He began with a brief outline of the trend of American humor, from the quaint Yankee type of Artemus Ward up to the present-day tendency towards sophisticated humor, in the form of "wise cracks." Then, in his inimitable style, he regaled his audience with selections from representative humorous writers.

"Artemus Ward among the Mormons," and in London with his panorama, was succeeded by Mark Twain's famous "Jumping Frog." Mr. Doo-ley's comments upon "His Cousin George" (Dewey) and "On the Philippines" recalled Spanish War times and days of national and political anxiety. From George Ade's "Fables in Slang" Prof. Rogers read a burlesque upon the social uplifter, "The Good Fairy with the Lorgnette," the lady who carried

235 pounds of sunshine to the lowly places and to the ungrateful poor,—and her reward! Among more recent burlesques and parodies, Professor Rogers selected "The Ballad of Yukon Jake" by Edward E. Paramore, an amusing parody on Robert Service's well-known "Shooting of Dan McGrew."

The popularity of the speaker was apparent when his audience settled into their chairs with pleased expectancy, and as the readings progressed, appreciative smiles and laughter registered keen enjoyment of the various types which he delineated so well. The Staff Club extends thanks to Professor Rogers for a very pleasurable evening.

The Hospitality Committee, Miss Margaret Calnan, Miss Margaret Lappen, Miss Beatrice Maguire and Mr. Frank Chase, had been most active early in the evening—for later no one could miss Professor Rogers—and had attained an attractive springlike effect in the refreshment room with its decorations of yellow and white. The evening closed with an abundant crop of those hardy perennials, ice cream and cake, the latter supplied by a number of generous members of the Club.

The Committee in charge of the next meeting of the Staff Club, on Wednesday evening, April 23, are compiling a series of confessions or experiences. "Now it can be told" hints of interesting revelations.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

President Maiers called the annual meeting of the Benefit Association to order at 11.15 a.m., on Tuesday, April 7, in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library. All the officers and about forty members were present.

After the usual reports and other formalities, the Association voted that one-half the money received from the recent entertainment be transferred to the Emergency Fund and that the remainder be returned to the Entertainment Committee as a nucleus toward the expense of some form of entertainment for the members in May. At

12.15 p.m. the meeting was adjourned until 2 o'clock.

At the adjourned meeting it was voted that the sum of \$200.00 be drawn from the General Fund to pay the balance due on the Soldiers' Memorial Tablet; that the Committee on Library Extension Courses continue to serve for another year; and that the Secretary cast one ballot for the officers nominated for the coming year.

The following officers were elected for the year 1924-1925:

President: James P. Mooers, Bindery.
 Vice-President: Frank H. Chase, Reference Librarian.
 Treasurer: Frank C. Blaisdell, Issue Dept.
 Secretary: George W. Gallagher, Bindery.
 Financial Secretary: Morris J. Rosenberg, Statistical Dept.
 Director for four years: James J. Kelley, Janitors' Dept.
 Relief Committee:
 Marion McCarthy, Branch Dept.
 Mary Reynolds, Issue Dept.
 James S. Kennedy, Shelf Dept.
 Harry C. Mathews, Bates Hall Catalogue.
 Abraham Snyder, Catalogue Dept.
 Welfare Committee:
 Margaret C. Sheridan, South End Branch.
 George H. Connor, Shelf Dept.
 James P. H. Gannon, Bindery.

As a mark of respect to the memory of Miss Nellie Stone of Hyde Park, who died last December, the members rose for a silent moment. A vote of thanks was extended to Mr. Walter Rowlands for his gift of the picture, "The hound," to the Soldiers' Memorial Committee, and the meeting closed with a rising vote of thanks to the retiring President, Mr. William C. Maiers.

THE SICK LIST.

It is cheering to note the return of some of our former invalids looking well and rested after their enforced absence. LIBRARY LIFE extends a warm welcome to Miss Mary C. Sheridan, Issue Department; Miss Annie Heiman, North End Branch; and Miss Mary Sullivan, Parker Hill Branch.

Still on the sick list are Miss Elsie W. Coolidge, Catalogue Department; Miss Therese Masterson and Miss Ellen F. Potts, of the Bindery; Mr. Walter Leighton, Janitors' Department; Miss Margaret Rooney, Brighton Branch; Miss Alice McEttrick, South End Branch; and Miss Caroline Curtis, Upham's Corner Branch.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume III, No. 8

May 15, 1924

CONTENTS.

MR. DOOLEY ON MUTILATIONS	85	THE NEW CONSTITUTION	91
"VIKINGS OF THE ICE"	86	NEWS NOTES	92
MUSIC WEEK AT THE LIBRARY	86	A NEW LUNCH CLUB	93
ITALIAN	87	"THE THIEF OF BAGDAD"	94
NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES	88	INSTITUTE FOR LIBRARIANS	94
LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS	89	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	96
EDITORIALS	90	STAFF CLUB	96

MR. DOOLEY'S REMARKS ON MUTILATIONS.

Edited and published for the first time from the original(?) manuscript.

"I am graately disthurberd, Hennessy," said Mr. Dooley, "because so many iv th' mos' expinsive books at the Public Libr'y arre bein' muchilathed be readhers with an insaashable hoonger an' thirst fr' arrt, ispicially when it is ondhraaped."

"I did not think," replied Mr. Hennessy, "that ye was iver inside the Public Libr'y."

"No more I was not," said Mr. Dooley; "but as an honist an' hard wurruk-in' tax-payer, I share th' outraged sintimints of me laarned frind, Misther Hogan, who, as I've often told ye, Hennessy, is a high-brow, an' as he says in his onakel'd Frinch, a happy chewy of the Libr'y."

"Wan day lahs' week, Hogan finds on th' rif'rince shilves a gran' volyoom de looks full of splindid pla-ates that had all been cut out be an arrt-lovin' readher. Filled with righteous indignaation, Hogan taakes the pricious wurruk to the Chief Rif'rince Librarian, who, be a remaarkable co-incidence, happen'd to be passin' through th' hall. 'Is it not a shaame,' says Hogan, 'that ye do not taake betther care iv these books that arre purrchased with th' sweat an' toil iv th' honist tax-payers?

De ye nivver catch anny iv th' divvles that do these dastarrdly thricks?' 'Not very often,' replies the Chief Rif'rince Librarian. 'We arre too busy arraangin' th' details iv th' fre-quint recieptions for th' Daughters iv King Philip's' Wa-ar, an' at prisint many iv us is dilligaates to th' Con-vention iv Assoshated Libr'y Glee an' Minsthrl Cloobs,' says he."

"'Thin why do ye not imploy a de-tective?' says Hogan, rather cross-like an' roiled by the ca'm an' onperthurbed bearin' iv th' Chief Rif'rince Librarian."

"'Ther' aint anny appropriaation for sich a pur-rose,' says the latter, 'an besides, it wad be a discourtesy to our confidin' readhers. It wad look as if we did not thrust thim,' says he."

"'That is all very fine,' says Hogan, 'but did ye nivver ma-ake an example iv annybody?'"

"'Yis,' he says; 'wanst a man borrid a pair iv shears fr'm th' attindint at th' desk, an' ta-akin' thim to his seat, stharterd to slash the pitchers out iv a book with a greaat deal of onniss'ry noise, so that it was most disturrbin' to th' other readhers at th' taable.'"

"'Was he arristid an' sint to ja-a'il?' ast Hogan."

"'Will, not exacly. He was po-litely conducted to th' Diricthor's office an' told that, as it was probly due to a mis-ondherstandin', it wad be over-looked this time, but that it must not happen agin.'"

"'Inda-ade,' says Hogan, dhroppin' his gin'ral soavity iv manner; 'I think it is a dom sha-ame an' it ought to be stopped.'"

"'I thank ye kindly for your in-thristin' an' hilpful suggistion,' says the Chief Rif'ince Librarian. 'It will give me play-sure to rayporrt it to th' Dirictor, who, I am sure, will be glad to intrajuce it at th' nix' meetin iv th' Honorable Boar-rd of Thrustees to be recor-rded in the min-yits.'"

"Does Hogan think they will do annythin' to sthop the crimin'ls?" asked Mr. Hennessy.

"Sure, he does not know if they will," replied Mr. Dooley. "Perha-aps they are afraaid that they might check the spread of fine ar-rt among the popy-laace. It wad be a pity if the lovers of ar-rt for ar-rt's saake had to contint thimsilves with the ba-athin' girrls an' asthetic dancers in the rottygrivoor supplimints, whin there is better to be had."

W. H. C.

"VIKINGS OF THE ICE."

A NEW BOOK BY GEORGE ALLAN ENGLAND.

In our business we are taught to respect a book. But when it happens that the author of a particular book was once a library worker, was once "one of ourselves," our feelings of respect amount to little less than thrills. We look at the name on the title-page and are reminded again that working in a public library is no bar to further achievement, that we, too, may attain the distinction of authorship, to the edification of the Catalogue Department and the general reader. We fall to wondering about the author, Mr. Allan England, formerly of the Boston Public Library, more recently of "Vikings of the Ice," and before we know it we are reading his book and with him are well toward the North Pole.

For he has gone a long way from the Library. He tells how with deliberate intent he sought out first-hand information on the details of the least-known, the most highly-adventurous sport of the world, namely, the seal hunt of the northern Atlantic. A traveller, but one with a feeling for the steam-heated apartment of our

American cities, he cast in his lot with a crew of native Newfoundlanders, men who all their lives had known nothing but the cruelest kind of hard, dangerous work, and whose only evidence of a response to the refinements of life was a tendency to borrow freely from the author's store of personal equipment, such as pipes, clothing, and tobacco. At the opening of the hunting season, with a head full of misgivings, he sailed from Newfoundland on a veteran sealer, blackened with soot, with snow frozen to the decks, and with the poorest quarters for officers and men. The reality was even worse than he expected, but it gave Mr. England what he in turn gives his readers, the fullest information about seal hunting. Everything that one could need to know of seals is set forth in abundance, their habits, breeding, killing, the profits of the business, the uses of seal oil, and then, for those of us who love to read a book of travel just for its own sake, the descriptions of the always magical north-land. We are told how an iceberg looks (it is here that we find out why the author is no longer in the library, but spends all his time writing, — this description alone justifies it) and how marvellous it was, after weeks of almost unendurable hardships in these ice-clogged seas, to glimpse blue water which meant home and civilization again. The author concluded his experiences on board the sailing vessel with an attack of grippe, but was not too ill to describe this culminating misery of his adventure in the words of Josh Billings, as being "2 mutch."

C. H.

MUSIC WEEK AT THE LIBRARY.

The active participation of the Library in "Music Week" was distributed through the seven allotted days, but passive co-operation has been going on for many weeks. Since February Mrs. William Arms Fisher, the able executive chairman of the Boston Music Week Committee, has had her headquarters in the anteroom of the Trustees' Room, and there, with her cohorts of secretaries and publicity agents, and

her countless committees, she has evolved the program which was keenly anticipated and deeply enjoyed.

The Catalogue Department collaborated by issuing a brief reading list—No. 28, "Landmarks in Music, Boston 1630-1924." This was distributed at the opening event in Tremont Temple on Sunday afternoon, May 4, where, after the usual congratulatory telegrams and messages, the Mayor read a fervid speech, and the People's Symphony Orchestra gave a popular program.

In the Library Mr. Appel had arranged an exhibition of unusual interest to Bostonians. Musical manuscripts, publications, diaries and books by persons intimately connected with Boston illustrated the musical history of the city.

On Monday, May 5, at 3.30, Mr. Stuart Mason lectured at the Library on "How Music came to be as it is," and in the evening a large audience enjoyed a concert given in the Lecture Hall by the Footlight Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Thompson Stone.

Miss Rose Ella Cunningham lectured on Tuesday morning to a group (ten women and a boy) who were interested in "Music for Mothers."

The next meeting in the Library was the lecture by Mr. John B. Archer, on the Historical Development of Music, under the auspices of the Division of University Extension. This was followed immediately by a concert given by the Lincoln House Orchestra, under the direction of Mr. Jacques Hoffman.

Many members of the Library Staff are grateful to Mrs. Fisher for her generous distribution of tickets for concerts and lectures given outside the Library.

H. S.

ITALIAN.

"Language," said Mr. Micawber (or somebody else), "is the art of conceal-
ing thought." The more thoughts, the more is a thorough knowledge of language necessary for their concealment. If for no other reason, it is at once evident how important are words in the existence of all proper librarians. Further, not only do they work with

books, but the public which they are expected to assist has a fearful and wonderful vocabulary. Has not the Mayor himself pointed out the babel of tongues to be heard in Boston? Forty-three languages and dialects, we understand His Honor said (though the Mayor may not always be correctly quoted). It has been calculated by the Statistical Department that, on the theory of probabilities, an attendant at the Library may on the average expect to be addressed in eight different tongues besides our own every twenty-four hours. Fortunately many of the foreigners speak English, and the eight-hour day further reduces the above average to about one-third. But there is no guarantee that this low percentage will be maintained, and besides, the conscientious librarian wants—like the Boy Scouts—to be prepared. A knowledge of Chinese, for instance, would not only greatly facilitate the redemption of shirts and unmentionables from the local laundry, but would also enable the possessor to make authoritative recommendations of original works on Chinese vases of the Ninth Dynasty, or the financial standing of the Third Republican Government. Even an acquaintance with Spanish would enable one to order *chile con carne* for the first time with some slight assurance as to what the result would be—in itself no small comfort. As for Italian, no one who had studied that language could have made the mistake of the young lady who wrote: "Andante—the wife of the poet Dante; after marrying her, he wrote the "Inferno."

To be sure we are likewise reminded that:

There was an old maid of Peru
Who thirty-two languages knew.

With one pair of lungs

She worked thirty-two tongues,

I don't wonder she's single, do you?

There must be a happy medium always.

When the Director decided, about the first of December last, to establish a precedent and an Italian course, some doubt was expressed as to the feasibility of the scheme. For to give oneself a course is not unlike lifting oneself by one's book-straps—a proposition which, like achieving perpetual

motion, has always been regarded as possessing certain mechanical difficulties. When confronted with a similar dilemma, Archimedes is said to have exclaimed, "Give me a fulcrum on which to rest my lever, and I will move the world." As his opponents were unable to provide the required point of support, he was adjudged to have won the argument. The Library, however, was not so easily disposed of; the Extension Division of the Department of Education at the State House was selected as the fulcrum around which the course was to move. With the essential violation of the laws of mechanics thus successfully disguised, the movement began at once and has proceeded quietly ever since.

For, unlike the course of true love, the course in Italian has from the first run with remarkable smoothness. Miss Colleton, whom a beneficent Providence was so gracious as to provide for our instruction, grasped the peculiar problem of library workers with rare insight and designed her own methods accordingly. Realizing that much of our work would be of an oral nature, she decided to conduct the course *viva voce*, illustrating the principles of grammar as they arose with a black-board outline, and emphasising particularly those verb forms which most often occur in conversation. Thus it was that we were first of all introduced to "I am" and "I have"—two little words no less important in Italian, it appears, than in publicity-mad and "dollar-chasing" America. "If I were," "Would that I might be," and other appurtenances of poetic flight followed in due course. We have come more or less to comprehend what is written in the Italian newspapers and periodicals, both as Miss Colleton reads them to us, and "on our own." We have learned to ask for a pound and a half of butter with fair nonchalance and some degree of accuracy. We are likewise able to state quite freely that we did not go out last night because the train on which our brother came was two hours late. Our vocabulary contains almost all the useful words, except the swear-words, that we are likely to need. We have learned to count from one to a thousand as rapidly as if we used our

fingers. Our past is perfect. The future is an open book to us. Above all, as we say "Non capisc'," we have learned to assume that indefinable air of patient indignation, in place of our once obvious appearance of furtive apology. And that, after all, is the true sign of progress. *In hoc signo . . .*

W. R. B.

NEWS FROM THE BRANCHES.

ANDREW SQUARE: Children four deep watched the setting up of a vegetable and flower garden exhibit in one of the windows of the Andrew Square Branch Library on Tuesday, May 6. In the centre stands a man with a hoe, in the midst of a luxuriant lettuce bed, on one side of him a tulip garden, on the other a border of irises. Three children are seen picking flowers, without being told to keep off the grass! A poster behind the exhibit encourages people of Andrew Square to start window-box gardens; in front are displayed piles of Farmer's Bulletin No. 1171, "Growing Annual Flowering Plants," an attractive booklet of 83 pages, of which one hundred were kindly sent, on request, by Congressman Tinkham. Every child or grown person who agrees to start a window box will receive one of these attractive pamphlets as a gift.

BOYLSTON STATION: The entrance to Boylston Station Branch has been made more pleasing by the laying of a new sidewalk in front of the building.

CITY POINT: An amusing article appeared in one of South Boston's local newspapers for May 3, in regard to the new fence in process of construction around the Municipal Building at City Point, in which the library is situated. The article is headed "It Came at Last," and goes on to describe the erection of a fence for which the contract was made eleven years ago. But "Better late than never," and City Point is looking forward this summer to the enjoyment of a really green lawn.

CODMAN SQUARE: Miss Sybil Murphy recently took a prominent part in a minstrel show given by the students of the Boston Teachers' College, in the High School of Practical Arts.

MATTAPAN: Look in the Mattapan windows if you want to see Japanese cherry trees in full blossom. On the branches of these trees birds of all feathers have flocked together.

NORTH END: A beautiful doll, dressed in the costume of an Austrian peasant bride, has been added to the collection of dolls at North End. It is the gift of Dr. Zoltán Haraszti, of the Special Libraries Department, and was sent to him from Matyo, Austria, by his sister. A bride, when dressed in this costume in Matyo, is known as Magyar Menyecske. The costume of the doll is all hand-made and has a most elaborate head-dress. The collection of dolls at the North End Branch now numbers about thirty, and the joy that these dolls will bring to the children when they are displayed will be good to see.

WEST ROXBURY: On April 17 the West Roxbury Woman's Club had its second book review meeting. The review dealt with several recent biographies.

The West Roxbury library has lately been the recipient of two busts. One, a bust of Charles Dickens, was presented by Mrs. Laurence W. Baker in behalf of the West Roxbury Dickens Club. The other, of Shakespeare, is the gift of the Shakespeare Classes of West Roxbury.

LIBRARY PUBLICATIONS.

Boston's book-tree has put forth, this spring, a number of leaflets, signs of life which will, we hope, survive the heat of summer. The earliest, "Some Useful Reference Books of 1923," was compiled by Mr. Chase in connection with his address at the last meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club. The list includes, with comments and prices, twenty-nine general reference books, with fourteen others of interest for special subjects.

For Boston Music Week, May 4-10, Mr. Appel prepared "Landmarks in Music, Boston, 1630-1924," a compilation of the titles of books and music used or composed by persons intimately connected with Boston, and of works illustrating the musical history of the city. The titles are given in chronological

order, ranging from the first edition of the Bay Psalm Book (1640) to the autograph scores of modern composers in the Brown Music Collection.

In the same week the New England Health Institute was held. For this, the "Health and Hygiene" list, prepared for the Boston Health Show of last October, was brought to date with a supplement of selected titles.

Mr. Pierce E. Buckley, Custodian Bates Hall Centre Desk, has compiled "Advertising," in 14 pages, including among its headings, besides general works, a number of specialties, such as motion picture advertising, show cards, show windows and signs.

The four lists named are Brief Reading Lists nos. 25, 27, 28, 29.

A new series, called "Lists for Branch Use," has run to three numbers. They are: No. 1, "One Hundred Books of Travel"; No. 2, "One Hundred Biographies"; and No. 3, "Gardens and gardening." Nos. 2 and 3 were prepared by Miss Ethel M. Hazlewood, of the Branch Department. All these lists have been distributed at the book-review meetings held at the West Roxbury Branch Library.

As a corollary to the film-play, "The Ten Commandments," pictures of scenes in the play were posted in the Central Library and the branches, with "A short list of books on Egypt; its past civilization and present state," which was prepared by Mary A. Tenney of the Catalogue Department.

It is appropriate to mention here a pamphlet entitled "Public Library of the City of Boston: an inspiration in its architecture, sculpture, and murals, and a great resource for the study of the art and technique of printing." It was published this month by the Society of Printers, with notes by Henry Lewis Johnson. Mr. Johnson writes: "The immediate occasion for this publication has been the course in Typographic Expression at the Massachusetts Normal Art School in the spring of 1924." The book contains a general description of the Library and a selected list of books on printing, divided as follows: Historical, Technical, Design and lettering, Bookbindings, Type specimens, Engraving, Printers' devices, Famous presses.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

CHRISTINE HAYES

LUCIEN E. TAYLOR

Associate Editors.

MARION A. MCCARTHY

HARRY W. MATHEWS

WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY

MARY E. PRIM
HARRIET SWIFT

Vol. III, No. 8.

May 15, 1924

With this issue, *LIBRARY LIFE* reaches the end of its third volume. It wishes all the members of the staff a pleasant vacation, and hopes to greet them in the fall with plans for a better paper next year.

IN THE BACKGROUND.

The work that counts is not always the work that shows. Conspicuous results almost invariably depend on work done behind the scenes, by persons of whom too often we know little or nothing. The so-called "lime-light" in which some of us move is frequently merely reflected from a background of which no one guesses. In fact, it may be truly said that a foreground presupposes a background, and that one is impossible without the other.

The Library is divided into open and closed departments. Those of us who work in the open have the pleasure and the stimulus of meeting the public and are often profusely thanked for the service which we are able to give. But our service would fall to pieces in an instant if it were deprived of the support of the closed departments of which the public seldom thinks. Careful, patient, scholarly work on the part of the Ordering and Catalogue Departments; prompt and accurate service in the stacks; tubes and elevators and other machinery in good order;—all these and many other factors are essential to the showy effectiveness of the public attendants in the reference and issue work of the Library. We are too

apt to forget our dependence on the men and women in the background.

Many an employee of the Library might easily be singled out as an illustration. The engineers in the boiler room, the drivers of the trucks which carry books to the Branches, those who bind our periodicals and print our catalogue cards, the janitors who wash the windows, the electrician who keeps the fans and lights in order, to say nothing of more "regular" Library attendants, are all cases in point. We and our public take all these people—or the results of their labors—for granted, yet they are all of essential importance; the service would break down without any one of them. At the moment, however, it seems specially in order to speak of two conspicuous examples of important work done in the background by members of the staff who have recently been retired.

Early in its first year of publication, *LIBRARY LIFE* was called on to sum up the career of Lindsay Swift, whose distinguished work as the Library's Editor was brought to a sudden close in the fall of 1921. Mr. Swift's place was taken by Miss Mary H. Rollins, who has now in turn left the institution which she has served long and ably. No better person could have been found to carry on Mr. Swift's task. Miss Rollins had long been associated with him in various forms of literary work, she had assisted him in his official duties as Editor, and shared his standards and his point of view to a remarkable degree. A scholar by temperament and training, a devoted and efficient servant of the Library through many years of fluctuating health, editor of a number of important bibliographical works, she conferred distinction upon the Library by everything that she did. Her touch gave to all her work an assured value. Her place will be hard to fill. Mr. Swift, in spite of the nature of his duties and the seclusion of his quarters in the Library, was always more or less of a public personage; but Miss Rollins has been essentially a part of the background—one of those who best illustrate its importance and its quality. We shall think of her as applying to her farm the

same refinement which marked all her work for the Library.

There is, however, a remoter background, known hardly to the staff itself. Few of us ever think of the life that goes on in the Library at night, through the period from closing time at ten o'clock to six in the morning. Two men are responsible for the security of the whole institution during those eight hours. They are here alone in the dark, going about with lanterns to make sure that all is tight and safe. Those of us who work in the evening see a quiet man in a cap, with a lantern beside him, in the lower hall as we pass out on our way home. His day is just beginning — it begins when the lights go out, and the great doors are locked. From then until the first fireman comes in the morning, it is his business — his and his mate's — to see that our background is kept in order, so that when we come on duty at nine, the machinery will be ready for us.

Mr. Walter M. Leighton performed this honorable duty with faithful regularity for more than twelve years. He was a responsible man, whom we trusted. One night he fell while on duty, and his lantern broke. Now he is an invalid, retired from service. The Library is grateful to him for his loyalty in carrying on the background. He is missed, even though few of us knew him. The regards and good wishes of the entire staff go with him into his retirement.

THE NEW CONSTITUTION.

In the year 1902 the Benefit Association was founded, and the first edition of its Constitution — a seven-page pamphlet entitled "Rules and Regulations" was printed soon after. The interest of the members is indicated by the frequent amendments and enlargements of the Constitution in the successive editions of 1904, 1906, 1907, 1910, 1917, 1920 and 1924.

The edition of 1924, just issued in 39 pages, contains the report of the committee of revision, and is made convenient for reference by a complete index and a calendar of meetings, an-

nouncements, appointments, etc. Acknowledgments are due for the painstaking work of the members of the Printing Office and Bindery, in which, by the courteous permission of the Director, the pamphlet was made. Like the earlier editions, the title-page bears the familiar symbol of an open book.

The new Constitution is the result of a careful study of existing conditions, with patient comparison of our constitution with those of similar associations. The essential additions are as follows:

A provision for general welfare. (Article II, Section b.)

The creation of department representation, for securing prompt notice of illness. (VI 6 k.)

Provision for death benefits for members retired under the Boston Retirement Act of 1923. (IX 4.)

The Relief Committee is given discretion to appoint members to visit the sick (XIII 2 a), and the Directors are given discretion in cases of failure to give notice of illness. (IX 3 e.)

Two members of the Relief Committee (VII 2) and of the Ways and Means Committee (VII 6), are to be women.

The Emergency Fund is organized under the control of the Directors, for the financial assistance of members. (VII 4.)

Rules for the administration and safeguarding of the several funds, already settled either in the Constitution or by the wise practice of our Treasurer, are set down in plain terms. (X 1-6.)

The Directors are made an executive committee, with supervision of financial affairs.

In this latest revision of the Constitution, the aim is to make the wheels of the mechanism run smoothly; but, realizing that it is impossible to foresee every emergency, the committee has tried to make the constitution responsive to every reasonable need of the members. The obvious work of the Association consists of the payment of benefits, but there will arise, from time to time, other needs which can best be met by action of the entire staff, for which the organization of the Association is ready to hand. For this

reason the committee has written into Article II the phrase: "To promote the welfare of its members in other ways."

An excellent example of such an emergency has just been afforded in connection with the Memorial Tablet in honor of the Library's representatives in the World War. No other organization stands so nearly for the whole body of Library employees as does the Benefit Association; and it was fitting that the burden of raising the funds for a memorial should be assumed by the Association, and that, when the earnest efforts of the Committee had failed to secure the entire amount needed, the Association should come to the rescue.

The Library has been built by the public spirit of the men and women of the past. We all reap the benefit of their vision and their generosity. Let us see to it that the work of the Association—our contribution to the Library and to each other—shows the same clear vision and the same fine spirit of generosity.

L. E. T.

NEWS NOTES.

Miss Virginia Tint, of the Registration Department, was married to Mr. Alexander J. Costello of Hyde Park in St. Joseph's Church, Roxbury, on Sunday, April 27. The Rev. Father Francis Phelan performed the ceremony. Miss Cecily Tint, the bride's sister, of the Charlestown Branch, was the bridesmaid, and Mr. John Costello, the groom's brother, was the best man. After the ceremony there was a reception at the home of the bride.

M. Paul Albert Besnard, the distinguished French painter, and Madame Besnard, were guests of the Library during their recent visit to Boston. M. Besnard, whose works have been frequently shown at the Art Museum, came to this country in connection with the recent International Exhibition at the Carnegie Institute, Pittsburgh.

On Tuesday evening, May 1, a group of three score women and girls of the staff descended upon Miss Ruth

von Schoppe at her home and surprised her with a miscellaneous shower, in anticipation of her wedding with Mr. John Glyn, of Roxbury. Everyone present took some part in the entertainment of the evening, which was followed by a collation. The party closed with singing and dancing, which lasted until the wee hours of Wednesday morning.

At the open meeting of the Extension Service Committee held in the Staff Lecture Room of the Library on Tuesday, April 29, the subject of discussion was the work done by Miss Mabel F. Reed toward a Union Catalogue. Miss Reed, who has been employed by Stone and Webster for the purpose, is surveying the business libraries of Boston and has already assembled 1600 cards containing pertinent information regarding their resources.

Our popular associate, Edward G. Murray, third speaker for the Junior Debating Team of Holy Cross College, Worcester, summed up the requirements for his side in the Senior-Junior debate held May 11, on the question, "Resolved, that the Johnson Immigration Bill is for the best interests of the United States." The third-year men, who have won every class debate for the last three years, obtained the unanimous vote of the judges and the James Fallon Purse of forty dollars.

An account of the debate, with a group picture of the teams, is printed in the *Worcester Telegram* of May 12.

Mr. Chase is the author of the leading article in *Special Libraries* for May, entitled "The Special Librarian and the General Library."

The official ballot of the American Library Association contains the names of three candidates now or formerly of Boston: *First Vice-President*: Herbert S. Hirshberg, Librarian, State Library, Columbus, O., formerly of the Catalogue Department, Boston Public Library; *Member of Executive Board*: Charles F. D. Belden, Director,

Boston Public Library; *Member of Council*; Harriet E. Howe, Assistant Professor, Simmons College Library School, Boston.

Each Branch Library is now provided with a Voting List of the precincts which its district is supposed to include. Every time a new registration is taken, or a card renewed, the name is checked in one of these Precinct books. Within two years the Branch Department hopes to obtain by this means a fairly complete survey of all resident tax-payers who use the Branch Libraries.

Huguenot Sunday, April 27, which was designated in commemoration of the settlement in New York, in the year 1624, of religious refugees from France, was celebrated in the Music Room by an exhibition of works relating to the tune known as "Old Hundred," the most famous in the Huguenot psalmody.

A number of groups of the Passion Players visited the Library during their stay in Boston.

The law providing for the removal of Sargent's painting, "The Synagogue," by the Commissioner of Education under the law of eminent domain, which was passed by the Massachusetts Legislature on July 13, 1922, and later extended until July 1, 1924, was repealed by the Legislature on April 10.

Sir D'Arcy Power, the famous English surgeon, and author of many books on medicine and surgery, visited the Library on April 26.

Sir D'Arcy was especially interested in the stacks, comparing our system with those of the British Museum and the Bodleian at Oxford. While in Boston he was the guest of Dr. Harvey Cushing, and was appointed Honorary Chief Surgeon of the Peter Bent Brigham Hospital for the period of his visit.

Mr. Zoltán Haraszti had an article in the *Sunday Globe* of April 13 on "Byron, Poet and Hero."

"Extra sets and cards" is the title of an eight-page list recently prepared by the Catalogue Department to assist its members in indicating upon "copy" the extra cards or sets of cards required for the catalogues of special collections, and in compiling bulletins and reading lists. This list is an accurate indicator of the extent and variety of the activities of the Library, in maintaining up-to-date guides to its sixty or more specialties.

Señor Americo Castro, Professor of Spanish Literature at the University of Madrid, was a recent visitor at the Library. Professor Castro, who is now lecturing in this country, came to see our Ticknor Collection, one of the most valuable collections of old Spanish books in the world. He was delighted to find here the first editions of the works of Cervantes, Lope de Vega, and Calderon, the novels of knight-errantry, etc. The autograph manuscript of Lope's "El castigo sin venganza" was especially interesting to Professor Castro, who has written a biography of the great dramatist.

The annual report of Mrs. Henry Howard, President of the American Merchant Marine Library Association, which has just been made public, gives warm praise to the Boston Committee, which, in the book drive of last spring, secured over 41,000 volumes and almost as many magazines for the use of sailors on merchant vessels. The work of the Association is nation-wide, but thus far Boston has greatly outstripped all the other centres of organization in the results accomplished. Mr. Carl W. Shattuck, who for some months had headquarters in the Boston Public Library, in charge of handling the books collected by the Boston Committee, is now Director of the Association, with his office in New York.

A NEW LUNCH CLUB.

The women of the Branch Issue Division and the Information Office gathered for luncheon at the Girls' City Club on Wednesday, March 26, at one o'clock, to hear Miss Guerrier tell of her visit to the J. Pierpont Morgan Library in New York. This general meeting was the outcome of numerous small group luncheons held during the last six months, at which Miss Guerrier, upon request, has spoken of various matters relating to books and libraries.

Enthusiastic suggestions that the luncheon be made a monthly affair resulted in a second meeting on Monday, May 5, at the Business Women's Club. The subject on this occasion was "Anton Lang and the Passion Players of Oberammergau." Anton Lang is a potter by trade, and his recent visit to the Paul Revere Pottery gave an interesting touch of intimacy to the talk, which was intensified by snapshots of Mr. and Mrs. Lang against a Boston background.

Thus is fully launched another Library Luncheon Club.

"THE THIEF OF BAGDAD."

About two weeks before "The Thief of Bagdad" reached Boston, the Public Library began the exhibition of the original water-color, pastel and charcoal studies of the stage settings for the film. In exhibiting these sketches the Library believes that it served a real artistic purpose. For, apart from the popular interest, the exhibition afforded a valuable insight into the art of scene-painting, and showed a great deal of the inner workings and mechanics of stage setting.

Willy Pogány's big poster, painted in tempera, is the first object to attract the attention by its vivid colors. Douglas Fairbanks is the central figure of the picture; black slaves carry a large palanquin, a darling princess looks out between the curtains, while with horns and banjos merry clowns are hopping around; in the background

the city of Bagdad is seen. This is a commercial painting, but how much fantasy and gusto in it! For there is such a thing as an art of poster-painting.

Willy Pogány is a Hungarian by birth. He left his country while still in his twenties, but he had already won even then a prominent place in the artistic life of Budapest, where the Hungarian National Gallery acquired a large number of his paintings. Before coming to America, Pogány spent several years in London. To-day he is one of the most capable illustrators, scene-painters and decorative artists living in America.

William Cameron Menzies, art director of the Famous Players, designed about half of the stage settings. "The Gates of Bagdad," "The Feast Room," "The Treasure Room" reveal the barbaric splendor of the East, while his "Cavern of Enchanted Trees," "The Undersea Chest," etc., tell of the fanciful mysteries of this strange world. This "thousand-and-one-night" atmosphere surrounds one in the "Princess's Bedroom," "The Palace of the Caliph," "The Desert Well," etc., of Anton F. Grote, a young Polish artist. In the same vein are the sketches of H. Ryle Hopps, a Western painter of repute.

All these pictures were done with a strict regard for the special demands of the cinema stage, and their chief interest lies exactly in this. To art students, commercial artists, and those generally interested in the problems of the stage, the exhibition revealed in a very instructive way the intimacies of the "métier."

Z. H.

INSTITUTE FOR LIBRARIANS.

The annual Institute for Librarians, held each year in Boston by the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners of Massachusetts, was in session from April 23 to 25, with headquarters at the Boston Public Library.

The program was the joint production of the Division of Public Libraries and Miss Donnelly, Director of the Simmons College School of Library Science. The second session, presided

over by Miss Donnelly, was held in the Boston Public Library lecture hall on Thursday morning, and was devoted to Branch Libraries. Miss Florence Overton, Supervisor of Branches, New York Public Library, spoke first of branch libraries in their relation to each other and as a part of the big library system. Miss Edith Guerrier followed with a talk on the Boston system. The next speaker, Mrs. Kate W. Barney, Librarian of the Forest Park Branch of Springfield (Mass.) City Library, told of the similarity of branch library work to that of a small town or village library. Mr. Charles R. Green, Librarian of the Jones Library of Amherst, under the title "If not a branch, why not twigs?" told about the extension service that library is giving to the rural schools and isolated communities of the Berkshire Hills.

Following the plan inaugurated last year, which proved very successful, certain morning sessions held in the Staff Lecture Room of the Library were open only to librarians and trustees of the small towns. At these meetings talks on simple cataloguing and classification, work with the foreign born, reference problems, the kind of books to put into these little libraries and ways of getting them to the people were given, and a Round Table discussion was held on general topics of interest to these librarians. There were three of these meetings, with an average attendance of 70.

The talk on the handling of reference problems, on Wednesday morning, was given by Mr. Frank H. Chase.

The open meetings averaged an attendance of 150. Mr. Belden presided at the last two of these sessions, one on "The Library and the Community," and one on "The Public Schools and the Public Library." The speakers under the first topic were Mr. J. Randolph Coolidge, Jr., trustee of the Boston Athenaeum, on "The Function of a Public Library," and Mr. Clarence E. Sherman, Assistant Librarian of the Providence, R. I. Public Library, on "Are Libraries Receiving Adequate Support from their Communities?" Both Mr. Coolidge and Mr. Sherman supplied very telling figures in support

of their convictions. Following these two speakers, Miss Alexandra Sanford, Children's Librarian, Brookline Public Library, gave a charming marionette performance with original plays and dialogues.

The closing session of the Institute was that dealing with the schools. Dr. Payson Smith, Commissioner of Education for Massachusetts, spoke of "The Interdependence of School and Library," stressing the need of close cooperation. Miss Cora A. Newton, Supervisor of Training in the Bridgewater Normal School, followed with a talk on "What Teachers Expect from Librarians," emphasizing the need of school libraries with teacher-librarians trained in both professions. Mr. George H. Tripp, Librarian of the New Bedford Public Library, gave "Some Suggestions to Teachers from a Librarian," in which he outlined a few ways in which teachers could make things much easier for the librarian, who is often overwhelmed by the eleventh-hour rush of pupils demanding material. A warm but friendly discussion on the subject by teachers and librarians ended the session.

At the close of this session, the visiting librarians and speakers were entertained at tea in the Staff Room by Mr. Belden and members of the Boston Public Library staff.

As always, the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners paid the expenses to the Institute of a few village librarians. This year twenty-one of these guests came and were housed at the Y. W. C. A. The registration cards show a total enrollment of nearly 300 persons; 98 libraries were represented, 73 of them in small towns or villages. Of the 18 "special" librarians registered, 15 were from High Schools. Twenty trustees and seven teachers varied the roll of librarians and assistants.

E. K. J.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

Miss Marion McCarthy, of the Branch Department, has been chosen chairman of the Relief Committee elected at the annual meeting of the Association.

THE SICK LIST

LIBRARY LIFE welcomes back, after a brief illness, Miss Helen Cushing, Ordering Department, and Miss Ellen F. Potts and Mr. William Wendell, of the Bindery, and regrets to announce the illness of Miss Cecilia Nazarro, Charlestown Branch, and Miss Julia Zaugg, Fine Arts Department. We extend wishes for recovery to Miss Elsie Coolidge, Catalogue Department; Miss Therese Masterson, Bindery; Miss Margaret Rooney, Brighton Branch; Miss Alice McEttrick, South End Branch; and Miss Caroline Curtis, Upham's Corner Branch, all of whom are still unable to return to their Library duties.

STAFF CLUB.

One of the most entertaining of Staff Club meetings occurred on Wednesday evening, April 23, in the Staff Lecture Room. Miss Margaret Sheridan, chairman of the committee for the meeting, had prepared a program, whereon each speaker had been allotted five minutes in which to cast humorous side-lights upon some serious library subject.

The Director, Mr. Belden, in speaking of the Budget, told of the continual pruning of library estimates, each successive cut lopping off some glowing possibilities, until finally the arid point of "What we get," is reached. His hearers heartily wished him "carte blanche" with the original budget figures.

The whole evening, instead of five minutes, might have been given to Miss Florence Cufflin in which to tell "What we don't get!" As it was, she crowded into a short interval a number of logical and practical suggestions, some of which may be of not too remote development.

It is not often that the Reference Department acknowledges defeat, but "Some reference questions we don't answer," collected by Mr. Chase, proved a most amusing vindication of its inability to "answer everything."

Mr. Chenery presented the serious problem of book mutilation through the voice and views of Mr. Dooley. The clever parody was so much enjoyed that it was decided to print it in

LIBRARY LIFE for the amusement of the Staff.

Miss Fanny Goldstein, who was asked to tell "What we give the foreign born bolshevists" denied the existence of this element in the West End Branch clientèle. The wholesome atmosphere of the Branch soon cures callers of even a slight bolshevistic tendency, and many of the foreign-born are graciously guided towards American ideals.

Miss Alice L. Murphy wrote of the methods at City Point Branch for "Placating the irate borrower," and of some interesting experiences during the process.

Miss Carrie L. Morse's stories from her "Library Scrap Book," and Miss Helen Bell's "Reminiscences" were followed by Mr. John Murdoch's talk. He described his leisure days as well filled with varying interests. He spoke of a closer devotion to his duties as a Library trustee, and of the magnetic attraction which draws him back to the department he has left, balanced by the lure of his garden and his gradual initiation into domestic science.

The speakers left us with a "taste for more," but the closing bell is inexorable. While ice cream and cake were being served Miss Olympia Cella entertained the Club members with vocal selections.

The committee for the evening were: Miss Margaret Sheridan, chairman; Misses Brackett, Cufflin, Deery, Goldstein, Guerrier, Jordan, McCarthy, Macurdy, Morse, and Rogan; and Messrs. Blaisdell, Chase, and Chenery.

M. A. McC.

The nominating committee, consisting of Miss Laura M. Cross, Mr. William R. Brewster, and Mr. Lucien E. Taylor, offers the following nominations for officers for the year 1824-25: President: Dorothy E. Harvey, Branch Department. Vice-President: Margaret A. Sheridan, South End Branch. Secretary: Margaret C. Lappen, Information Office. Treasurer: Edith Von Schoppe, Registration Department.

Directors: The terms of Miss Sheridan and Mr. Frank H. Chase expire this year. The following are nominated: Beatrice C. Maguire, Warren Street Branch; Winthrop H. Chenery, Special Libraries Department.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume IV, No. 1-2

October 15 - November 15, 1924

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
THE GREAT OPEN SPACES	1	AN ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR	11
THE LEBON GIFT	2	STAFF CLUB	12
SIDE LIGHTS ON THE "E" EXAMINATION	2	EARLY BOSTON MANUSCRIPTS	13
MEMORIAL TABLET	3	EXHIBITIONS	14
LIBRARIANS AT LARGE	4	DR. DE NORMANDIE	15
Summer and fall activities of the A. L. A., Massachusetts Library Association, etc.		BRANCH NEWS	16
NEWS NOTES	8	ANOTHER MEDAL FOR MR. BELDEN	18
OUR FRONT-PORCH CAMPAIGN	9	DO, RE, MI	19
EDITORIALS	10	ADULT EDUCATION	20

THE GREAT OPEN SPACES.

The first to welcome us was the little tourist boy who had been peering for goldfish in the pool of the courtyard fountain. As our procession approached, he leaped to his feet with a subdued whoop. Maybe he thought there would be elephants. As it was, the general effect was rather imposing. In the lead was a small "extra" carrying a very large Windsor chair; after him trailed a slightly larger "extra" toting an armful of wire book supports.

"Juggling! Gee!" thought the little tourist boy. Several feet behind, a third, well set-up "extra" pushed a protesting truck, loaded with fiction, travel books, essays, plays and biography. Finally, clutching a date-stamp, pencil, charging blanks, and an ink-pad, came, with a slightly worried expression, the "courtyard attendant."

The book truck was wheeled into position; non-fiction was attached to a table with the book supports; the breathless "extra" set down his Windsor chair, into which the attendant sank gracefully. A crowd gathered — well, anyway a relative of the tourist child strolled over.

"What are you doing — airing the books?"

The first to make use of the "courtyard library" were two girl hikers from New York. They came in wearing sweaters and knickers and carrying knapsacks. They were much interested in the experiment, one which evidently had not yet been tried in New York.

Later, some young ladies from a nearby office building discovered us. They selected plays. When the lunch time was up, they turned in the volumes reluctantly, and were much cheered to find that the books would be reserved for them the next day. The "continued-in-our-next" idea seemed to please them, for thereafter they came in almost every noon-hour. Magazines also were much in demand, and the courtyard benches were dotted with "Atlantics" and "Scribners."

One of the most interesting patrons was a man who had been blind for eighteen years and who had recently regained his sight through a series of delicate operations. He came in every day, and read through "The Sea and the Jungle."

Likewise there was one dear old lady, who asked the attendant to suggest a "nice" book. She shook her head at the proffered volumes of fiction and selected "Two Years Among New Guinea Cannibals" instead. "This book looks kinda educational," she murmured.

People from all parts of the country presently took advantage of the suggestion to "read a good book in the courtyard at noon." From California, Utah, New Mexico, Minnesota, they came. When they had sufficiently admired the building and the courtyard, they invariably disclosed how much their new library was going to cost. "Yessir, right on Main Street, opposite the bank."

"But your circulation!" one hears the small-town librarians cry. "How was your circulation?"

"Excellent, thank you," the attendant replies courteously. "Even in September, when it got chilly, we enjoyed being outdoors —"

"No! No!" the scandalized librarians interrupt. "The book circulation!"

The attendant's lips twist ruefully. "Well, it wasn't alarming. Seven volumes or so went out each noon. We weren't aiming for record circulation, you know. However, the books were read. Usually every seat in the courtyard was taken. And oh!"—with a joyous sigh of reminiscence—"Every one *did* have such a good time."

M. E. P.

THE LEBON GIFT.

Early in December of last year, Mr. Charles P. Lebon, for many years a teacher in our Boston schools, wrote to Mayor Curley to offer the books in his private library as a gift to the city of Boston.

Mr. Lebon's retirement from active service had taken place only a few months previously. For more than thirty years he had taught French in the English High School, and the occasion of his withdrawal had been celebrated by his colleagues and former pupils with many expressions of their regard. During the busy years of his teaching, it had been one of his pleasures to gather together a collection of books relating to France, in the language of that country, and dealing with its history and literature. He felt, now that he was released from the burden of daily routine, that he was going to be able to enjoy his library. Then he learned that he must lose his sight. Henceforth reading was to be

denied him, and with this realization came the thought of his books. As he said in his letter, "if I could no longer read them, others could have the opportunity." This is the origin of the Lebon gift.

It comprises 219 volumes, including the classics as well as later standard authors, most of which are in attractive half-morocco bindings. There is the complete works of Molière in one volume, a rare edition not previously possessed by the Library, besides several works relating to him which have hitherto been restricted to use in the Brown Dramatic Collection. Among the general works are an *Anthologie des poètes français*, in four quarto volumes; Montaigne's *Essais*, 1816; and *Les oeuvres de Ronsard*, 1604, in ten volumes. The historical works are all in editions of established standing, and include the names of Lamartine, Saint-Beuve and Bossuet. Throughout, the books are the selection of a man of scholarly discernment. With loving care he gathered them together; now that he can no longer use them, he does not want them to remain idle. Seldom has the Library received a more personal gift, or one which reflects more honor on the donor.

"They also serve who only stand and wait."

C. H.

SIDE LIGHTS ON THE "E" EXAMINATION.

Probably for the first time in Library history, the examination for extra assistants, held on October 25, had to be split into two sections. In the morning the crowd filled the Barton and West Galleries and overflowed into Fine Arts. The afternoon brought forth a somewhat smaller attendance.

As the same paper could not be given to two separate groups, the Examination Committee presented two papers, alike in their general character, but with contrasting questions. Thus, if the morning problem was to locate Mont Blanc, the afternoon query would be, "What is the highest peak of the Alps?"

Reading the "E" examination has none of the thrills of taking an ex-

amination oneself, but it need not be a task without interest. One never knows what the next paper may bring forth.

The questions this year required definite answers. Like problems in arithmetic, the answers had to be either right or wrong, so there was no chance to "bluff." One really need not be endowed with the intellect of a college president in order to pass the "E." On the other hand, those who failed need not be considered absolute morons. Unfortunately, at the mere sight of an examination paper one's commonsense and knowledge may both take flight.

Evidently this was frequently the case, for though the questions were apparently easy, some of the answers were amazing! Of course all residents of this fair city ought to remember that Benjamin Franklin was born in Boston. Oh, certainly! But at least half of our young aspirants gave Philadelphia or Pennsylvania as the answer to that question. We innocently inquired what place was meant by Lone Star State. Every western state in the Union was put forth as a possible winner, Kansas being the favorite "dark horse." Everyone boldly stated that a man named Henry Ford was the designer of a certain make of cheap motor vehicle rampant on the streets today, but few could give correct information about William J. Bryan or Judge Landis of baseball fame.

The questions in arithmetic brought some strange answers. We found that the price of land per square foot (the correct answer being ten cents) fluctuated in true stock-exchange style from one cent to ten dollars. That little decimal point certainly played its part in keeping down percentages.

Taking into consideration the prayers and promises of many of the candidates, it is unfortunate that so many failed to get the necessary 70 per cent. As for the examiners, theirs is the well-known motto, "Read 'em and weep!" And weep they do — frequently; but the tears are those of "innocent merriment." Heartless though this may seem, the examination-reader is after all entitled to some

compensation for his trouble. And, in this best of all possible worlds, his virtue most often brings its own reward.

E. M. H.

MEMORIAL TABLET.

On the eleventh day of November, at the eleventh hour, on this, the sixth anniversary of the signing of the Armistice, there was unveiled in the Courtyard of the Central Library, a memorial, sculptured by Frederick Allen, to the members of the Staff who served their country so well and so faithfully during the late war.

The order of the exercises was as follows:

Divine Invocation

Rt. Rev. Monsignor Arthur T. Connolly
Unveiling of Tablet Miss Maud M. Morse
Presentation of Memorial

Mr. Walter Rowlands
Acceptance of Memorial

Judge Michael J. Murray
Placing of wreath on tablet

Mr. John J. Krigel
Oration Major-General Edward L. Logan
Taps

The Star Spangled Banner

Mr. Belden presided, and Mr. E. Mark Sullivan, the official representative of His Honor, the Mayor, recited "In Flanders Fields."

The Soldiers' Memorial Committee, which had charge of securing the tablet, consisted of Mr. Walter Rowlands, chairman; Miss Della J. Deery, and Messrs. Timothy Mackin, Joseph Crowley, and James Gannon. The committee for the exercises was: William F. A. Graham, chairman; Misses Mary M. McDonough, Florence Sullivan, and Mary E. Prim, and Mr. Emil Hofman.

On June 27th, an engagement gift in the form of a twenty-dollar gold piece was presented to Mr. Archibald L. Gleason, of the Engineer Department, by a group of his friends. Mr. Gleason was married June 29th to Miss Maella Murphy, formerly of the United Drug Company. The young couple visited New Hampshire, Connecticut, and New York, returning to Revere, where they are now at home to their friends.

Librarians at Large

Summer, the Time of Conferences, Has Come and Gone, Leaving
an Interesting Record of Stimulating Gatherings. More
Recently, the Monthly Meetings Continue to
Make the World Safer for Librarians.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The annual meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club was held at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, June 19-22, 1924.

The first session opened Thursday evening with the President, Mr. Redstone, presiding. The President introduced as the speaker of the evening Charles W. Townsend, M.D., who gave a beautiful illustrated lecture on the Ipswich sand dunes. He told not only of the flora and fauna, but also of the movement of the sand and the dunes and the angle at which the sand comes to rest. After Dr. Townsend's delightful talk the club had a get-together social.

Friday morning, Mr. R. R. Bowker, editor of the *Library Journal*, gave an address. Mr. Stevens, Director of the Pratt Institute School of Library Science, then spoke on the subject "Introducing Books to the People Through Printed Bulletins." He advocated separate special lists for branch libraries, such as those issued by the Springfield Public Library, which do not include public documents and special material. At the business meeting, a motion by Mr. Dougherty to incorporate the Club under the laws of Massachusetts was carried.

Later, Dr. Drury, of Brown University, spoke about "Bookbinding." He advocated that periodicals indexed in the Reader's Guide, or any other index, should be made available by binding, because both the storage and the binding of magazines are very live problems. He also exhibited two magazine bindings, one costing about sixty-five cents, and the other, forty cents. He

called these methods "Home Brew Bindings," because they were made in the cellar.

Mr. Lowe, Assistant Librarian of the Brooklyn Public Library, then conducted a Round Table on librarians' problems. First he spoke of the loan desk and said that a knowledge and love of books was necessary for the one at the Loan Desk. He likewise believes in having courses for all grades of library assistants given in library time. He even sent some of his girls to two large department stores in Brooklyn to take courses in the psychology of working with the public,—in other words, Salesmanship. The crank who comes into the library has to be handled as well as the agreeable person. He added that two hours was the longest any one should be at the Issue Desk at a time. Fifty books per hour is the average speed of charging books, and this should not be kept up by one person for more than two hours.

Mr. Lowe also spoke of the "Approved Book List." This fiction list is made out every two years with a supplement in alternate years. Books on the approved list are kept in stock, and branch librarians can make out replacement cards for any of the books on the list and get the books very quickly. This saves the usual delay in replacing books. Books on this list are often bought at auction or at sales and put into the stock room.

At Lynn, we were informed, each member of the staff has two and a half hours in reading periods during the week, to read book reviews, look over magazines for important articles, etc. A record is kept of important articles. The reading is done usually

in the Staff Room or Reference Room and not at the Issue Desk.

The librarian from Lexington spoke of the great success she had had with her outdoor bulletin board. She displayed very attractive pictures of the board, showing different exhibits.

E. P. R.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Special Libraries Association of Boston held its annual meeting May 17th, 1924, in a most attractive bungalow on the top of Punkasset Hill in Concord, at the invitation of Mr. and Mrs. George W. Lee. A number of members motored out from the city, while others came by train and enjoyed a two mile walk through the historic town and woods to the summit of the hill.

Annual reports and the election of officers comprised the formal program of the evening. The reports showed an increasing interest and enthusiasm in Association activities. The Membership Committee report told of the addition of 45 new members, the resignation of 7, and the death of 1; and made several suggestions for the future policy of the Membership Committee. The Education Committee reported the continuation of an evening class, this year offering a general course in Special Library methods under Mrs. Lane's direction. Mr. Stebbins, chairman of the Registration Committee, gave a very complete and valuable report of its work in receiving applications, and introducing applicants, for positions, and prophesied an enlarged field for such effort on the part of the Association.

The following officers were then elected for the year 1924-25: President, Mrs. Ruth M. Lane, Vail Librarian, Massachusetts Institute of Technology; Vice-President, Mr. William Alcott, Librarian, Boston Globe; Secretary, Miss Ethel M. Turner, Reference librarian, State Library; Treasurer, Miss Marion G. Eaton, Librarian, Federal Reserve Bank.

R. M. L.

RAMBLING MEMORIES OF THE SARATOGA CONFERENCE, JUNE 30th - JULY 5th.

Saratoga Springs conjures up memories of carefree days when the gods united with the Weather Man to make a perfect week for Librarians.

After the confusion of arrival and getting settled had subsided, the waiting lines of delegates thinned out into friendly groups in the lobbies or on the porches, and that personal point of professional contact which is the spice of a conference commenced.

B. P. L. attendance was particularly conspicuous because of its lack of numbers. Only four and one half persons appeared from the B. P. L. (that is, counting Miss Marion Brackett as a half, because she arrived for the tail end of the conference only). Misses Guerrier, Goldstein, and Kingman were kept busy apologizing for those "we left behind us," while Mr. Chase was busy on his speech, or gathering wedding anniversary impressions. Only three frail and feeble voices, unaided by balloons, banners or rackets, were on hand to shout "Long live the B. P. L." There is room for improvement at the next A. L. A. conference.

The responsibility of attending the various sessions was divided between Misses Guerrier, Goldstein and Kingman so as to insure a greater banking of ideas to bring back home. All the sectional meetings showed serious planning, were of interest, and the "tout ensemble" of the entire conference was quite human. We invariably found that the next person also had similar library problems to solve, and was grinding on the shoals of routine work, ever on the "qui vive" looking for ideas and inspirations, contact with other library workers, and appreciation—and—salary increases.

The speeches were all literary contributions, seriously delivered. Mr. Chase's address at the first general session, on "What People Read in Boston," was especially praiseworthy, and a credit to the Boston Public Library. He was interesting in his presentation, entertaining, informative and brief.

The exhibits were most attractive, highly instructive, and voted by all as the best display of any conference.

With the exception of the visit to the Yaddo Gardens, which was arranged for the visitors, the conference was devoid of social planning. As part compensation, however, for the novices, there were small party trips to Lake George and Schuylerville, which were very worth while. Then there were the waters—water, water everywhere, and springs and springs to taste! And the baths. Those mineral baths—once tried, never forgotten! And—luckily for the librarians—we were just ahead of the racing season, and so were saved from the temptation of betting and losing our fare home.

The problem of proper library assistants came up for considerable discussion, but the keynote of the entire conference was "Adult Education." That is the subject destined to hold the attention of the Library world for some time to come. It was the general consensus of opinion that library funds may legitimately be spent upon children's books, books for Americanization, and Adult Education; or, to put it more briefly, our duty is to the child, the foreigner and the student.

The A. L. A. Conference came to a close with a stirring and vivid address by Professor Meiklejohn, and the closing words of President Jennings's optimistic message—"For those things we have committed without knowing, those things that we have left undone, forgive us, and those things which we would do and should do, help us to perform." F. G.

Save your pennies for the A. L. A. at Seattle next year.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION.

The Association held its first meeting of the year on Monday evening, September 29th, at the Walker Memorial Building, Massachusetts Institute of Technology. Supper was served at 6.30 to fifty-two members and guests. This was followed by a short business meeting, at which the

committee chairmen were announced as follows:

Membership, Miss Withington.
Education, Mr. Mooney.
Publicity, Miss Gibbs.
Registration, Mr. Stebbins.
Methods, Mr. Lee.
Directory, Mr. Handy.
Hospitality, Mr. Alcott.

The roll was called by years, and it was found that ten charter members were present.

The subject for the evening was "The Special Libraries Association of Boston, What It Was and What It Should Be." Mrs. Hartzell, of Dana Hall, Wellesley, told of the organization of the Association on June 4, 1918.

Mr. Lewis A. Armistead, of the Boston Elevated Railway Co., mentioned the publication of the "Directory of Special Libraries in Boston and Vicinity," which was issued in March, 1920, followed by a second edition in June, 1921, under Mrs. Hartzell's leadership. He expressed the hope that it might be possible for the smaller libraries to send to the Association a monthly list of their accessions, these to be duplicated and a complete set to be distributed to each library.

Mr. Handy, a charter member, and President of the national Special Libraries Association, gave a most interesting and entertaining account of an attempt some twelve or fourteen years ago to organize a sort of eastern district group of the National Special Libraries Association. He pointed out that the meeting of local groups of librarians, and then again of these groups together at the national meetings, has brought about that splendid co-operation which is found among special librarians throughout the country at the present time.

The meeting was then turned over to Mr. Alcott of the *Boston Globe*, who, with other members, reproduced the little play or "Mellerdrummer" which the Boston members staged last June at the Saratoga meeting. E. M. T.

The October meeting was held on Monday, the 27th, in the new Chamber of Commerce building. Beginning with a supper in the luxurious cafe-

teria, the meeting adjourned to the still more luxurious reading room, where half a dozen speakers made up a varied and inspiring program.

Mr. Chase, in the absence of Mr. Belden, expressed regret that heavy expenses make it impossible for the Chamber to provide quarters for a business branch at a nominal rental, and that the establishment of this library is therefore again deferred. He next discussed the adult education movement and the ideal public library of the future, one made up of numerous special libraries each with its special librarian, and serving the entire community in the same way that an individual special librarian and special libraries now serve a single firm.

Mr. W. P. Cutter, Director of Information, Arthur D. Little, Inc., Cambridge, told of the meeting this summer of the British Special Libraries and Information Bureaus, which is the first national organization outside the United States and Germany. As a weekly, sifting the facts, he recommended *Time* to the busy librarian.

Mr. Frederick H. Mooney, Librarian of Dennison Manufacturing Co., Framingham, urged the value of general participation in the meetings and the case method of handling some of the problems met by members.

Mr. Daniel N. Handy distinguished between the special library and the public library, but emphasized their interdependence.

It was voted that the local association affiliate with the national association.

E. M. T.

BOSTON GROUP OF CATALOGUERS AND CLASSIFIERS.

The Fall Meeting of the Group began with a social gathering and supper at the rooms of the Twentieth Century Club, on the evening of November 12th. After supper the Secretary, Miss Wise, of the Wellesley College Library, read a letter from Mr. Handy, President of the national Special Libraries Association, in which he proposed a plan for co-operation in preparing classifications of special subjects.

The business meeting was held at the State Library, by the kind invitation of Mr. Redstone, State Librarian.

The minutes of the preceding meeting, which was devoted to a discussion of the definition of cataloguing, were read and approved, and the Chairman appointed a nominating committee, to report at the spring meeting, consisting of Miss Briggs of Harvard, Miss Hyde of Simmons College, and Miss Quimby of Winchester. The results of the straw ballot held at the last meeting were announced, showing a general agreement that a cataloguer is responsible for the author-heading, title, collation, subject-headings, cross references, and notes. It was voted that Mr. Handy's letter, and the topics for discussion suggested by members, be referred to Mr. Goulding, Chairman of the A. L. A. Catalogue Section. Interesting summaries of the cataloguers' round tables at the Saratoga meeting of the A. L. A. were read by Miss Abbot of the Brookline Public Library, and Miss Tucker of the Harvard University Library.

Mrs. Coe, Chairman of the Boston Group, and Head of the Catalogue Department of the State Library, then gave a concise account of the contents, policy and methods of the Library. There was on exhibition the famous Bradford Manuscript, entitled "History of Plimoth Plantation" (known as the "Log of the Mayflower"), with printed and facsimile editions; also a technical exhibit illustrating the work of the State Library, including temporary bindings for unbound pamphlets; an inexpensive way of reinforcing loose covers; various classification schemes, with an interleaved extension of Dewey; a collection of catalogue trays showing methods of cataloguing and filing, and use of guide-cards; and excerpts from recent annual reports of the Library, giving statistics of cataloguing. Each guest received a typewritten statement, "Points to discuss and observe." Fifty-six members were present.

L. E. T.

Zion's Herald, in its issue for October 29th, published an article about some of the rarest manuscripts and printed books in the Boston Public Library. Mrs. Pauline C. Bouvé wrote the article, which, with numerous illustrations, occupied four full pages.

NEWS NOTES.

On Sunday, September 28th, Miss Zona Gale, the well-known fiction writer, visited the Library in company with Miss Lula Vollmer, author of "Sun-Up." While in the Fine Arts Department, Miss Gale decided to combine business with pleasure and to look up a desired piece of information. As the details of the matter were not immediately available, Miss Gale consented to leave her name and address so that they might be forwarded to her when ready. Unfortunately, at least from the scholastic point of view, Miss Gale gave her address at 24 East 8th Street (care of Miss Vollmer), but neglected to specify city or state! Imagine the quandary of the Fine Arts Department: their report "all dressed up and nowhere to go"; their professional reputation at stake! Surely a case for Sherlock Holmes — or Who's Who. In the meantime, the many admirers of Miss Gale may see the historic autograph by applying to William F. A. Graham, of the Catalogue Room. We supply this information, together with the address, for what it is worth.

Mrs. Healey, our popular *Chargée d'Affaires* in the women's lunch room, is once more a grandmother. The mother of the baby, Mrs. Kathleen (Healey) Callahan, was formerly connected with the Issue Department.

Mr. Belden, who was elected to the executive board of the American Library Association at its conference in June, has been appointed a member of its committees on Civil Service Relations, and the Celebration of the Fiftieth Anniversary in 1926. He is also one of the seven members of the Association's important Commission on the Library and Adult Education, which will devise plans for the extension of direct educational work by the public libraries of the country. Mr. Belden attended a meeting of the Commission in Chicago on October 20-21.

Miss Guerrier, who was also elected to the executive board of the Associa-

tion, has been appointed a member of the Committee on Public Documents.

The Copley Club, composed entirely of members of the Staff, will hold an informal dancing party in the Château Dansant, Huntington Ave., next to the Opera House, on Friday evening, November 21st. A special feature will be the famous Hotel Wentworth Orchestra of Portsmouth, N. H., which will make its first appearance in Boston on this occasion. The committee in charge consists of Mr. William Graham, chairman; Miss Edith von Schoppe, secretary; Miss Alice Kernan, treasurer; Miss Annie Brannen, Miss Mary McDonough, and Messrs. Merton Wheelock, John Cray, and Thomas Manning. All members of the Staff are cordially invited to attend. Tickets and information may be secured from any member of the committee.

WEDDING BELLS.

Miss Lucille Elizabeth Joyce, of the Information Office, was married on September 20th to Mr. Merton Lawrence Gilbert, at the home of her parents in Cohasset. The officiating clergyman was the Rev. Winifred N. Donovan of the Newton Theological School. Mr. and Mrs. Gilbert sailed September 30 on the steamer *La Bourdonnais* of the French line, and will spend the winter in France and Italy.

Mrs. Gilbert was a reference attendant in the Information Office, also giving part time to special work in the Catalogue Room. She was a popular member of the younger set, and carries with her the cordial regards and best wishes of the entire staff.

The following appointments and transfers have been made:

Miss Beatrice C. Maguire, Librarian, Upham's Corner Branch, June 13, 1924.
Miss Beatrice M. Flanagan, Librarian, Warren Street Branch, October 17, 1924.
Miss Theodora B. Scoff, Librarian, Mattapan Branch, October 17, 1924.
Miss Marion C. Kingman, Librarian, Tyler Street Branch, October 17, 1924.
Mr. Andrew Fassitt, Electrician, Central Library, October 17, 1924.
Mr. Robert A. Howes, Assistant to the Director, October 31st, 1924.

On May 22d, Mr. William F. A. Graham, of the Catalogue Department, received the degree of L.L.B. from the Suffolk Law School. On June 28th, he took the Bar examinations and passed them with flying colors. Since then, he has been admitted to the Bar in Massachusetts, and is now a full-fledged attorney. The members of the Copley Associates tendered him a reception at the home of Miss Edith von Schoppe, at which he was presented with a handsome desk set, in token of congratulations and good wishes. Mr. Graham is one of the prominent members of the younger set of the Staff.

Mr. Michael J. Conroy, of Bates Hall Catalogue, is the proud father of an infant daughter, born in the early part of October.

OUR FRONT-PORCH CAMPAIGN.

During the meeting of the Military Order of the World War, which held its annual session in Boston this year from September 28th to October 4th, Copley Square was the scene of a mimic combat in the air. A machine gun on the roof of the Brunswick, another in the grass plot of the Square, a signal outpost on the roof of the Copley Plaza, and a squad of silvery airplanes circling overhead, were the pieces in the game. The planes sailed and dipped and turned; the men at the machine guns sighted, took ranges, gave orders to fire, and hideous-sounding volleys poured forth, sharp, rapid, continuous. Fresh ranges were taken; the planes soared; the Copley Square gun grew silent and the Brunswick gun began to talk. Above was a sky of a most perfect October clearness, warm, October sunshine, and in the Square below, a crowd whose comfortable enjoyment of the scene was undisturbed by the rattle of machine guns. Even the cab horse, tethered outside the entrance to the subway, did no more than flick an ear when the noise was at its loudest.

To a non-military observer of the mechanical forces on the ground and in the air, the conflict seemed inde-

cisive. But to any one who looked at the quality of the human forces in action there,—the men behind the guns, so to speak,—the pick of the country, the flower of our Army, there could be no doubt of the outcome of any contest in which such as they should be engaged. And before the smoke of the machine gun had fully lifted, a "radio cart" had drawn up to the curb and begun pouring into the ears of the assembled crowd of officers and civilians the latest, up-to-the-minute, wireless offering—the verses of a vigorous hymn sung in the ringing tones of a double quartet!

Verily "Peace hath her victories . . ."

C. H.

SICK LIST.

The following members have been absent during the past month on account of illness: Miss Lydia Mongiovi, Issue Department; Miss Olive Neilson, Upham's Corner Branch; Mr. Frank Hannigan, Periodical Department. Miss Annie McDermott of the Bindery suffered painful sprains as the result of a fall down the bindery stairs. At last reports, she is progressing slowly, but is still unable to return to her regular duties.

LIBRARY LIFE'S GOOD-BYES.

Just one month over forty years ago, Miss Gould, of the Catalogue Department, came to work in the Patent Room of the old Library on Boylston Street. This summer, at her own request, she was retired from the service.

The amount of the pension, about which there is always an element of doubt, proved in her case to be more than she had expected. So, unhampered by financial difficulties, Miss Gould faces the future cheerfully. Many of us remember that she had a literary flair, and used occasionally to make us all envious by displaying her published work in the pages of the *Boston Post*. With added leisure, she now resumes her short-story writing, when not intrigued by social claims.

The good wishes of LIBRARY LIFE are yours, Miss Gould! C. H.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

WILLIAM R. BREWSTER	HARRY W. MATHEWS
WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM	MARION A. MCCARTHY
ZOLTÁN HARASZTI	MARY E. PRIM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY	HARRIET SWIFT
LUCIEN E. TAYLOR	

Vol. IV, No. 1-2.

October 15 - November 15, 1924

NOVEMBER 15.

For the first time since LIBRARY LIFE began its career, it has failed to publish an issue on—or somewhere near—October 15. An explanation is due.

It must be confessed, to begin with, that the fluctuations in the actual date of appearance of the paper, as contrasted with the shameless repetition of the official statement that it "is published on the fifteenth of each month," have been largely due to the frequent inability of the editorial board, especially its chairman, to spare the necessary time from other pressing duties. This fall, the pressure of those duties proved so great that October passed without a paper, and it became evident that the responsibility must be shifted to less busy hands. Fortunately for the paper and the Library, it has been found possible to effect a reorganization which promises a better paper than ever before, with a good hope that in future it will appear on time.

The board which served so well last year has been augmented by the addition of Mr. Zoltán Haraszti, who has had years of experience as a practical newspaper man, and Mr. William R. Brewster, who is fresh—almost—from work on a college paper, and is a frequent contributor to the *Boston Herald*. Miss Christine Hayes, who has been a member of the Board from the beginning, has been relieved of responsibility at her own request, but will continue, as in the past, to write occasional articles.

The names of the Editorial Board appear at the head of this column. Under the new plan of publication, a member of the Board will be designated each month to take charge of getting out the paper. For the present issue, which has the double date, October 15 - November 15, in deference to tradition, Mr. Brewster is responsible.

* * *

In laying down the immediate burden of the paper, I wish to express my appreciation of the competent and devoted work of Mr. Taylor and Miss Hayes, who have done so much to make the little sheet a success during the past three years, and also to thank all those—members of the Board and occasional contributors—who have generously furnished the material out of which the successive issues have been constructed. LIBRARY LIFE has been a notable expression of the growing spirit of solidarity and co-operation in the staff of the Library; and it has been a privilege to carry on the paper as a means to the cultivation of that spirit. In its new phase, the paper will, I believe, reflect more completely than ever the life of the Library. I look forward with confidence to its career in hands younger than mine; my function as chairman will, I expect, be hardly more than the paternal one of smiling on the successes of the new generation.

F. H. C.

WATER.

"Water," says the Greek poet, "is the best thing"—a statement of which the Library has had a number of striking illustrations the past season.

In the first place, the inundations. Of these there were two. One took place on the 10th of July, when a shower during the Elks' parade drove into the Library a crowd probably larger than had ever before entered the building. There was standing-room only, and very little of that. It was a regular cloudburst of humanity, testing the hospitality of the Library to the utmost; but the institution proved equal to the occasion, and was not ungrateful to Jupiter Pluvius for the flood.

The second inundation came in the night, when the great water main at

the Blagden Street corner burst. This time the Library had too much of a good thing. The water poured into the cellar of the building, wetting everything that it could reach, and putting all the machinery out of commission. Few who saw the boiler room the next morning, with the engineers up to their waists in water, while a fire-engine pumped vigorously in an effort to abate the flood, will soon forget the strange spectacle. Fortunately the valuable sets of society publications, long stored in the cellar, had been moved a few weeks before, so that the damage to books was slight. But the inconvenience and expense have been heavy, and we are still crippled in some directions. The stack-girls will long remember that first day, when each slip meant an adventurous pilgrimage into the stack with a lantern, in search of the book that seemed more elusive than ever.

Our last gift of the waters occurred on the morning of Tuesday, October 21st, when we all took an unpremeditated walk. That morning, through a strange combination of circumstances, the water supply gave out in the power-house of the Boston Elevated, and stopped the machinery—it is indeed hard to tell which is worse, too much water in the engine room, or too little; in either case, the wheels cease to move. There were a hundred Odysseys that morning, as the members of the staff found their way to work by new routes. We were all late, and the Library at nine was a deserted place. We have to thank the water—or the lack of it—for a new test of our ingenuity, a new chance to make good under difficult conditions.

“Water is the best thing”—when it is under proper control. But, like all things inanimate, it is capricious and may be inhumanly perverse. Of which the lesson is: Be prepared for the failure of conditions, and rely on your wits and your devotion to help you to do the job in spite of them.

A joint meeting of the Massachusetts Library Club with the Western Massachusetts Library Club was held at the City Library, Springfield, on Thursday and Friday, October 23-24. The

program was an attractive one, with an address on Adult Education by Mr. H. H. Meyer, of the Library of Congress, President of the American Library Association, and two Round Tables, which promised to shed light on a variety of library problems. There was no attendance from the Boston Public Library, and very little from the State at large, owing to the fact that the announcement of the meeting did not reach the members until Wednesday, October 22, thus leaving them no time for making the necessary arrangements for getting away. These meetings are of great value to the librarians of the State, and it is greatly to be deplored that this notice was so delayed as to give most of the Club members no chance to attend.

AN ASSISTANT TO THE DIRECTOR.

At their meeting on October 31, the Board of Trustees appointed Mr. Robert A. Howes to the newly-created position of Assistant to the Director. Mr. Howes is a graduate of Colorado College and of the Harvard School of Business Administration, and has also spent a year of study at the Harvard Law School; his practical experience includes the management for some years of a realty and building corporation, and work as a public accountant and as acting cashier and assistant treasurer of Colorado College. It will readily be seen that this training fits him peculiarly well for his new position, in which he will assist Mr. Belden in carrying on the business side of the Library administration. The Library has long needed such an official, and is fortunate in securing so well-equipped a man. LIBRARY LIFE gives him a hearty welcome to his place in the Staff.

“Curious Old Gravestones in and About Boston” is the title of a work by Mr. Walter Rowlands, of the Fine Arts Division, recently published. The selections are fifty in number, and cover the years 1653-1807. The text consists of biographical notes; the plates are from photographs by Howland Shaw Chandler.

STAFF CLUB

The Executive Committee of the Staff Club met in the Staff Room on Monday, September 15th, and planned an especially attractive program for the coming Club year. The following appeal has been issued by the Executive Committee:

The Staff Club is the medium through which we meet on social terms and it is according to the number of meetings we attend that we become acquainted with each other. Now won't *you* (this means *you* directly) keep the dates listed below clear on your social calendar and by your attendance and interest make 1924-25 "The Best Staff Club Year Yet?"

PROGRAM.

Tuesday evening, Nov. 25 — Anniversary party.
Tuesday evening, Dec. 30 — Christmas party.
Wednesday evening, Jan. 28 — Reception to new members.
Thursday evening, February 19 — Valentine party.
Thursday evening, March 26 — "The play's the thing."
Friday evening, April 24 — The Play.
Wednesday evening, May 27 — Annual meeting — "Somewhere at sea."

PUMPKIN PARTY.

Goblins and black cats grinned genially upon the large gathering that assembled in the Class Room on Friday evening, October 24th, for the first meeting of the year, the Halloween or "Pumpkin Party." Charter members, pensioned members, general members, and many new youthful members, all were present. Miss Dorothy Harvey, President, welcomed the members and then turned the meeting over to the Committee for the evening.

Prolonged applause greeted the appearance of the two favorite entertainers in Library circles, Mr. and Mrs. John J. Cronan, whose stories are always so much enjoyed.

Mrs. Cronan first told a dream story of Pharaoh's daughter, entitled "The Mummy's Foot." Mr. Cronan then told a spooky negro story, following

this by the tale of the Irish king who was a gentleman and would not say the "disrespectable" words "You're a liar." After the story-telling, a grotesque little goblin figure hopped in, and, disguised thus, Miss Ruth Hayes, of the Children's Room, executed a fantastic dance to music played by Miss Mary Galvin of the Issue Department.

In the vegetable hunt which followed, Miss Margaret Dalton, of the Auditor's Office, collected the largest number of candy trophies and was awarded the prize, an attractive candy carrot box.

Pins and sheets of tissue were then distributed to members with which to construct paper hats, and some surprisingly clever results were soon on exhibition. The judges, Mrs. Cronan and Miss Prim, confronted by many excellent creations, found their task a difficult one, but finally Miss Clara Leon, of the Issue Department, was declared the winner, and was awarded the prize—a little witch. The amateur milliners then dressed up in their new hats and marched around the class room and into the lunch room, where distinctive refreshments of Halloween type and color were served. Dancing followed, the music being furnished by Messrs. Joseph Gallagher of the Fine Arts Department and Joseph Hopkins of the Extra Service.

The decorations, which added so much to the spirit of the occasion, were prepared by Miss Eleanor Mulcahey, assisted by Miss Gertrude Nugent, both of the Fine Arts Department. Miss Anna Manning, of the Children's Room, conducted the evening's program, assisted by Miss Margaret Calnan, Jeffries Point; Miss Helen Morrissey, North End Branch; Miss Eleanor Mulcahey, Fine Arts; and Miss Mary Prim, Information Department.

M. A. M.

THE GARDEN PARTY.

The Annual Meeting and Garden Party at Nottingham Hill on Tuesday evening, May 27th, was a fitting finale

for a very successful Staff Club year. When Miss Guerrier generously offered the use of her house and grounds for the occasion, the success of the party was assured, for the hospitable resources of "The Pottery" are well known.

The party lasted from "anytime after five until eleven," and there were sports provided for every taste.

The tent of "Madame Zara," (Miss Margaret Sheridan), the clever fortune teller, proved a magnet to the majority, and soon became the centre of clamoring groups all anxious to consult the oracle and to learn what the future held for them.

Many of the members were eager to view the famous Paul Revere Pottery, products of which they had often admired in the little shop on Boylston Street, so Miss Brown and Miss Guerrier were kept busy conducting parties through the plant, explaining the different processes of the art and display-

ing the variety of the finished articles.

The following officers were elected for the year 1924-25:

President: Dorothy E. Harvey, Branch Department.

Vice-President: Margaret A. Sheridan, South End Branch.

Secretary: Margaret C. Lappen, Information Office.

Treasurer: Edith von Schoppe, Registration Department.

Directors: Beatrice C. Maguire, Upham's Corner Branch; Winthrop H. Chenery, Special Libraries Department.

Immediately after the meeting an excellent musical entertainment was given by gifted Club members, generously assisted by volunteer talent.

The members of the efficient committee to whose activities the success of the party was due were: Entertainment, Miss Harvey, Mr. Brewster; Refreshments, Miss Curley, Miss Heimman; Decorations, Miss Brackett, Miss McDonough, Mr. Graham. Miss McCarthy was chairman.

M. A. M.

GIFT OF EARLY BOSTON MANUSCRIPTS.

A collection of early Boston manuscripts and autograph letters, dating from 1734 to 1845, and including many interesting items relating to business and political affairs, has been presented to the Library by Mr. Raphael Sachs, a New York collector. Of this collection the *Boston Evening Transcript* says in its issue of October 22nd:

Among the manuscripts relating to the Revolution, the most interesting, though least flattering, was written after the battles were over—in June, 1787. John Wilson, Boston, thus advises Richard Mather, a merchant in Philadelphia:

"Here is the quintessence of Government! A new governor raising a new army, a new assembly making new laws—to raise money by a new plan of finance to pay victual and cloath this new army—which is intended as a new pattern for all the other united and independent States to imitate. Every new day is replete with new plans to stir up parties, factions and insurrections in this new State which obliges us to repeat the old 'Rouse my Countrymen . . .'" And so on. The whole writing is one prolonged outburst of bitterness.

A letter of James Tilton to Congressman (later Attorney General) Cæsar A. Rodney affords insight into the workings of politics—local and national—of the Jeffersonian era. A few years later (1808) is the long letter of William Jarvis (Boston) to Henry Dearborn. Much quaint rhetoric colors the writing: "The appeal to freemen is: shall we submit or shall we resist?" This is its style, through some twelve pages. And there is in it a vehement denunciation of the commercial abuses of those "whose god is of gold." "It is frequent for our citizens," attests Mr. Jarvis, "to go to Halifax and other parts of the British dominions contiguous to us, and from thence sail under British colors to the West Indies with cargoes." All this for the purpose of violating the existing embargo laws.

* * * * *

A sentence passed at the general court martial, held at Fort Independence in Boston Harbor, June 30, 1811, shows into what a sad plight his desertion had brought John F. (suffice the initial), a private in the artillery. "The Court . . . after mature deliberation . . . sentence him to receive fifty lashes on the naked back, serve six months to hard labor, refund the expenses incurr'd in his desertion . . .", etc., reads the severe document.

Altogether the gift is a valuable one, and will be a notable addition to our already large manuscript collection.

EXHIBITIONS

During the summer months, several notable exhibitions were given in the Fine Arts Exhibition Room and in the Barton Library. Without exception they were all well attended by the public, and received considerable notice on the part of the press.

The Exhibition of Americana, prepared with special regard for our summer visitors, was on view from the middle of July till the middle of September. Rare and unique documents, telling of the discovery of America, the voyage of Captain Smith, the Indian Wars, and others pertaining to Old Boston, Massachusetts Bay, and Plymouth Colony, were shown in the Exhibition Room. The letter of Columbus to Raphael Sanxis, treasurer of King Ferdinand, announcing the discovery of America, the "Bay Psalm Book"—the first book printed in this country—and the first edition of Eliot's "Indian Bible" were among the exhibited books.

Several of the most important new acquisitions were here shown for the first time. The most noteworthy, and one not hitherto described elsewhere, was the Minute Book of the meetings of the Boston tea merchants, held at the Royal Exchange Tavern, shortly after the Boston Tea Party. From the documents, we learn that "Capt. Jones's Bill for punch, etc., for the Evenings of the 21st and 23d Decem., 1773, Amount[ed] to £20/18/9." Subjoined is the list of those who paid their share, together with one of those who did not. However, these latter were but few in number. For no doubt the clerk, who had already advanced the money, looked well to it that this part of the business was likewise properly attended to.

CIVIL WAR RELICS.

In honor of the National Encampment of the Grand Army Veterans, during the second week of August, a special exhibition of Civil War manuscripts, old prints, engravings, etc., was arranged. Hundreds of veterans, coming from distant parts of the country, visited the Library daily, eager to

see everything. The collection of the 20th Massachusetts Regiment, with its scores of rare prints and hundreds of original photographs, attracted particular attention. Autograph letters of Lincoln, Mary Todd Lincoln, Grant, Jefferson Davis, Alexander Stephens, and many others, were also included. The picture of these splendid old fellows, moving about in friendly groups or bending over the show cases, commenting on the frescoes, and discussing the events of some sixty years ago, will long remain a pleasant memory to all of us who were privileged to assist in their entertainment.

* * *

In the latter part of September, the history of the development of printing was illustrated with a group of books and plates. The *Craftsman* number of *The American Printer*, a collection of sixty plates, was the nucleus of this exhibition.

The "Decorative Art" exhibit followed next, from the first of October on, for which a multitude of colored plates—patterns and designs—was selected with special regard for the art students.

ILLUMINATED MANUSCRIPTS.

At the present time, the illuminated manuscripts of the Library are on view in the Exhibition Room. It is a pleasing surprise to see how many fine and rare examples of the medieval art of book illumination we possess. Hymn books, tracts, secular poetry, closely follow each other in the cases. A scroll, thirty-nine feet long, makes up the "Histoire Universelle," written in the 14th century, and contains some sixty painted initials; while vying in value and interest with it, is St. Augustine's "De Civitate Dei," a Dutch manuscript of the same period. It is interesting to look up the provenance of these vellum manuscripts. A work of Marcus Manilius, for instance, once belonged to Cardinal Grimani.

Most of our manuscripts were written in the 14th and 15th centuries, but some few of them date back as far as

the 11th century. The different nations are also well represented: Italy, France, England, Spain, Germany, the Netherlands; one even comes from Arabia.

* * *

Among the exhibitions in the Barton Room, that of the Bunker Hill documents was chronologically first. The Chamberlain Collection has a number of letters by General Putnam, Colonel Prescott and others, some of them written during the actual fight, containing orders, or asking for more arms or powder. Perhaps we may mention strictly between ourselves that one of these notes asks—yes, begs—for rum. For “more rum,” to be precise.

The Order to defend the Hill, drawn up two days before the battle, is also in our possession.

To commemorate the anniversary of Tennyson's birthday, first editions of his books were shown, together with manuscripts of several of his poems.

WORDSWORTH AND COLERIDGE.

The Wordsworth and Coleridge Exhibition was next in the series. A letter from Wordsworth to Edward Moxon (unpublished) reveals the somewhat embittered mood of the poet, then past sixty: “It is a disgrace to the age,” he writes, “that Poetry won't sell without prints. I am a little too proud to let my Ship sail in the wake of the Engravers and the Drawing-mongers . . .”

Coleridge, in his letter to Robert Southey, speaks of his future plans. “Conclusive Discourse . . . Index . . . Appendix . . . Glossary . . . Philosophical Terms . . .” One philo-

sophical but unpoetic term follows the other. The poet of the “Ancient Mariner” and “Christabel” was hopelessly submerged by this time (1822) in his logical, theological, and theosophical discussions. “This done, I shall attempt the publication of my (Anti-Grotian) Assertion of the Christian Religion on the principle stated in my first Lay Sermon . . .”, he writes. This letter also exists only in manuscript.

COLUMBUS DAY.

The Polyglot Psalter of Augustinus Justinianus, printed in 1516, was the most interesting item of the Columbus Day Exhibition. On the margins of Psalm xix, the learned bishop gives a curious account of the life and discoveries of Columbus. This is the first and oldest biography of Columbus. Don Fernando, son of the discoverer, says that there are not less than “thirteen lies” in the short writing of Justinianus; yet even if this be true, they do not spoil its peculiar charm for the modern reader. Hardly could the Bishop have been more enthusiastic and appreciative. “Had he [Columbus] lived in the times of the Greek heroes,” he concludes, “he would have been placed among the gods . . .”

In commemoration of the birthday of Robert Louis Stevenson—and in connection with the lecture of Mr. Guy Richardson, given in the Lecture Hall on the 13th of November—an exhibition of the first editions of his works has been arranged. From “Travels with a Donkey” (1879) to “Island Nights” (1893) and “St. Ives” (1898), we have first edition copies of many of the most famous Stevenson works.

Z. H.

DR. DE NORMANDIE.

Rev. Dr. James De Normandie, a former Trustee of the Library, died on October 6th at the Corey Hill Hospital. He had been minister of the First Church in Eliot Square, Roxbury, since 1883. At one time he was president of the Fellowes Athenaeum before it became affiliated with the Boston Public Library. In 1895 he was appointed a Trustee of the Boston Public Library, and on February 1, 1908, succeeded Mr. Solomon Lincoln

as president of the board. He held this post until May 8, 1908, when he declined re-election as he had just resigned from the Board. In his memory, wreaths were placed on the main stairway of the Central Library and in the Fellowes Athenaeum.

An attractive poster for the story-hour, designed and drawn by Morris Studler of the Sunday and Evening Staff, has been accepted for the Children's Room.

BRANCH NEWS

A very interesting article appeared in the *Boston Evening Transcript*, August 23d, 1924, about the posters and exhibitions which have been displayed in the windows of the various branches during the summer. Miss Hilda Baker, our "poster girl," has made some very attractive ones, which can be seen on display at almost any Branch at any time.

Miss Guerrier attended the New York Library Club meeting at Lake Placid, September 22d-27th. She reports it was a very interesting gathering.

The engagement has been announced of Miss Dorothy Harvey, of the Branch Department, Central Library, to Mr. Robert Laird Turner, of Springfield. Miss Harvey is President of the Staff Club, an editor of *LIBRARY LIFE*, and is one of the best-known and most popular members of the Library Staff. Mr. Turner may be recalled as the Black-face Gentleman who so amusingly assisted in entertaining us at the Staff Club garden party last spring.

AT THE BRANCHES.

ALLSTON: 1)***

BRIGHTON: The first in a series of book reviews was held at the Brighton Branch on Thursday morning, Nov. 6, at 10 o'clock. The following recent books of fiction were reviewed by people who come to the library constantly. They are: "Rugged Water," "Amos Locke," "The Homemaker," "The White Monkey," "The Old Ladies," "Rose of the World," "Treasure of Ho," "So Big," "Madame Claire," "Nina," "Little French Girl," "Bread," and "Riceyman's Steps."

Miss Marian Brackett, the Librarian, arranged a Halloween party for the children on Friday afternoon, the 31st. The feature of the entertainment was a story-teller, who seems to have made a big hit with the little guests.

CHARLESTOWN: 1)***

CITY POINT: While going to the library July 22d, Miss Alice Murphy was shot in the shoulder by a young boy. She tells her experience in the following paragraph:

"There is perhaps no thrill in existence quite equal to the thrill of 'getting shot.' He who gets shot and still survives the experience may thereafter consider himself as belonging to the select coterie of super-thrilled individuals indulgently smiled upon by Fate. I speak from experience that struggles to express itself modestly. I have been shot—meeting with this really red adventure on July 22d, p.m., while on my way to the library—and in a manner that has already received its full share of publicity in the daily papers of that date.

"Up to this point, in what may now be classified as a career, my experience of gun-play had been the conventionally limited one. I once heard a shot. Similarly, I confess to being frequently submerged in the gasping mass that periodically regales itself with dramatic representation of gun-play at the movies, at the orthodox drama, etc. I have felt, along with the palpitating mass, the sickening thud of Tosca's fall in that most tragic of harmonious finales, but, oh! (and I speak as a connoisseur) the inferiority of all these thrills as compared with the super-thrill of getting shot yourself!"

(Despite the unquestionable excitement of being bored by a bullet and consorting with naughty bandits, which Miss Murphy so alluringly sets forth, we venture to predict that the majority, at least, of us will still continue to get our primordial punches via the civilized security of the silver screen. — ED.)

1)*****

DORCHESTER: A Halloween party was held at the Branch. The decorations were arranged by Miss Agnes Dunn and Miss Dora Buckman. A musical selection was contributed by Miss Ruth Hayes, of the Central Library. Prizes were won by Miss Hayes and Miss Barton.

EAST BOSTON: Miss Louise B. Bell, formerly first assistant at the East Boston Branch, was married to Mr. Frank C. Bell on August 16th. They will be at home after the first of October at 1 St. James Terrace.

FELLOWES ATHENAEUM: Mr. William J. Nugent, janitor at the Athenaeum, was recently elected and installed as Grand Knight of the Mount Pleasant Council, Knights of Columbus.

HYDE PARK: Mr. John Hession has resigned his duties as janitor at this Branch. Mr. Michael Dorgan has taken his place, having begun his duties Friday, November 7th.

MATTAPAN: Miss Theodora Scoff, former Librarian of the Tyler Street Branch, has been transferred to the Mattapan Branch.

I)****

Miss Marion Kingman, who was the Librarian at Mattapan Branch, has been transferred to the Tyler Street Branch.

MOUNT PLEASANT: I)***

NEPONSET: I)***

NORTH END: Through the generosity of Mr. James Kenney of the Bindery, the North End Branch has acquired a beautiful copy of "The Madonna and Child," by the German artist, Nathanael Sichel. A heavy gilt frame brings out by contrast the soft brown tones of the picture as it hangs on the wall of the Adult's Room. Already the picture has been received with well-deserved appreciation by the patrons of the library. Those first to admire it are the Italians, in whom a love of art has for centuries been instilled.

ORIENT HEIGHTS: I)***

PARKER HILL: I)*****

ROXBURY CROSSING: Recently a new group of people have been using this library. Gypsies, with great cars, registered from many different states, have come to camp in vacant stores on Tremont Street, near the Roxbury Crossing Library. Here they will stay until they are forced to vacate. (They usually do so just before the time for

them to appear in Court.) The children come into the Library and ask for the school primers. Tiny tots they are, dressed in many colors, and sometimes wearing two or three skirts. An interesting fact is that these gipsy children put the books back on the shelves—something which is rarely done by the other children. One of the assistants of the Branch informs us: "You can always tell them, especially by their black, wild hair."

I)***

SOUTH BOSTON: I)****

Mr. Arthur Cufflin, father of Miss Florence Cufflin, Librarian of the South Boston Branch, passed away September 22d at his home, 20 Faneuil Street, after about a month's illness.

SOUTH END: We are pleased to have as a friend and frequent visitor to the Library, Mr. Robert A. Woods, author of "Calvin Coolidge," which is one of his recent books.

TYLER STREET: A new set of Greek books has been added to the Tyler Street Branch collection.

I)*****

Six o'clock in the morning is an unusual hour for Library workers to be on deck! Nevertheless, the opportunity of advertising the Tyler Street Branch urged six of them to be on the spot, when the polls opened election day morning, to hand out a printed reading list of "Good Books on the United States Government" to the voters of that district. During the day some 2,000 were distributed, and it is earnestly hoped that many of the invitations "to use the books on the Library shelves" will be accepted.

UPHAM'S CORNER: Miss Mary F. Kelley, formerly Librarian of the Upham's Corner Branch, was married to Mr. Joseph A. O'Regan on June 16th, at the Mission Church, Roxbury.

Miss Beatrice Maguire, formerly Librarian of the Warren Street Branch, was transferred to the Upham's Corner Branch as Librarian, June 13, 1924.

WARREN STREET: Miss Nazera Tradd, formerly second assistant of Warren Street Branch, was married to Mr. Deane C. Lawson on June 16th.

They are making their home at 103 Hudson Street.

Miss Beatrice Flanagan, Librarian of Mount Bowdoin Branch, was appointed Librarian of the Warren Street Branch, October 17th.

WEST END: A class of thirty-five students of the School for Social Workers visited West End Branch on the recommendation of Mrs. Eva Whiting White, head of the Elizabeth Peabody House, on Tuesday, Sept. 23d, and was given a talk on the Library and Social Service by Miss Goldstein, the Librarian.

A special article on the West End Branch Library appeared in the *Boston Sunday Herald*, September 28th, in the magazine section.

1)*****

Library ground was broken on September 19th for the widening of Cam-

1)*** This symbol indicates that the walls and ceilings of the Branch have been painted during the past summer. Four stars (****) indicate that new furnishings of various kinds have been added. Five stars (*****) indicate that electric lighting or other major improvements have been com-

ANOTHER MEDAL FOR MR. BELDEN.

A Dante medal has been presented to Mr. Belden by the President, Senator Corrado Ricci, and Council of the Casa di Dante in Rome. The presentation was made through the Library's good friend, Cavaliere L. Melano Rossi, on the morning of June 25th, in the Trustees' Room. In awarding the medal, Signor Rossi said that it was "given in recognition of the importance of the Dante collection in the Public Library of the City of Boston, which holds a high rank among such bequests in the public libraries of America, and as a token of appreciation of the lively interest taken by you as Director, and by the Library, in promoting not only the study of the great Italian poet, but of Italian literature in America." This is the second Dante Medal which Mr.

bridge Street, and about forty feet of the front lawn of the West End Branch has already been staked off. Two of the large linden trees are to be sacrificed to this civic project.

WEST ROXBURY: That the story hour held each Thursday afternoon in the library hall is proving a success under the direction of Miss Bessie Doherty, the new story-teller, is evidenced by the large attendance. One week there were 150 pupils from the junior high school grades and 80 from the fifth and sixth grammar grades. The junior high children assemble at 2.45, and the fifth and sixth grades at 3.30 o'clock.

The first book review, which was held October 28th in the library hall, proved very popular. About twenty-five books of current fiction were discussed.

pleted. Owing to the unprecedented activity of the repair force, it has been found impossible to mention each of these items separately. We wish, however, to congratulate all concerned on the neatness and improved appearance of their buildings. — ED.

Belden has received. On December 11th, 1923, he was honored in a similar way by the City of Ravenna. Cavaliere Rossi also made the presentation at that time.

STAFF ROOM MAGAZINE LIST.

The Staff Club Magazine Committee announces that the following magazines for the use of the Staff are now kept on hand in the Staff Lecture Room: Asia, Atlantic Monthly, Bookman, Book Review, Century, Harper's Bazar, Harper's Magazine, House and Garden, House Beautiful, Ladies' Home Journal, Library Journal, Life, Literary Digest, Modern Priscilla, Publishers' Weekly, Public Libraries, Scribner's, World's Work.

The Staff Room is likewise to be open from 12 to 2.15 daily for reading purposes, and the magazines may be

taken there if desired. The committee requests, however, that all such magazines be returned without fail to the Staff Lecture Room when the reader has finished with them.

DO, RE, MI . . .

On several Monday afternoons recently, the entire Information Office force has come down with laryngitis, directing to the Lecture Hall people who were interested in Mr. Richard G. Appel's course on the Boston Symphony Concerts. This is certainly a music-loving city!

Fifteen minutes before the lecture on November 3d, the hall was crowded with a decorous, well-bred, Boston group of all ages. There were elderly gentlemen clutching *Transcripts*; white-haired ladies who evidently had attended the symphony concerts from the beginning; earnest conservatory students; little girls with beribboned braids.

There was applause as Mr. Appel appeared and introduced the visiting speaker of the afternoon, Dr. Vladimir Zederbaum. His subject was Moussorgsky's "Pictures at an Exhibition." In a pleasant, somewhat foreign, voice, he gave a slight biography of the composer and explained his influence on modern music.

The orchestral version of the Russian composer's piano pieces is by Ravel. There is a light bright daintiness about the work which reminds one of his own Mother Goose suite.

"Pictures at an Exhibition" was written for the piano as a memorial to an artist, Victor Hartmann, friend of Moussorgsky. First is "The Gnome," written in irregular rhythm, just as the clumsy little dwarf walked. In another part a saxophone is used to give the effect of the song of a wandering minstrel, the suggestion of which novelty was greeted by the audience with a ripple of laughter.

One of the nicest pictures of all was the one of children at play in the gardens of the Tuileries. Mr. Appel himself played this, and one heard shrill voices and eager gayety, and felt the sunlight on the trampled grass. For a shivery interlude, there was Baba

Yaga, the witch of Russian folklore. How Monsieur Ravel must have enjoyed enlarging on this.

The Symphony Appreciation course is a very interesting experiment, and appears to be reaching a large public. What a delight it must be to those genuine music lovers who arrive at the Symphony Hall steps three hours before the Friday afternoon rehearsal and wait patiently until the doors to the second balcony are opened. Boston may not be able to support an opera company, but it certainly has its share of what Huneker calls "melomaniacs."

M. E. P.

AN APARTMENT FOR QUEEN MAB.

Have you a little fairy in your library? If not, then visit our Children's Room, and see the miniature fairy castle, kindly lent by a generous and sympathetic patroness, Miss Ida Maud Cannon, Special Instructor in Social Service, Simmons College, and Chief of Social Service, Massachusetts General Hospital. The castle and surroundings are built of tiny material objects: mosses, lichens, shells for canopies, butterflies' wings for the roof, milk weed pods for turrets, mica for the moat. There are sheep, a black cat, a swan, and several bewitching fairies, which (or who?), to all appearances, are extremely lifelike.

If you have been putting off that trip to Fairyland for longer than you really meant to, now is your chance. Crank up the Kiddie Kar and come on over.

AN IMPORTANT BEQUEST.

On August 8th a check for \$10,000 was received from the executor of the estate of the late David P. Kimball, in payment of a bequest of that amount to the Library. On October 17th, the Trustees voted that this bequest be funded as the DAVID P. KIMBALL FUND, and the income applied to the purchase of books in accordance with the terms of the Eleventh Clause of the will.

This is one of the largest bequests which the Library has received for some time.

ADULT EDUCATION.

A new prospect is opening for the public libraries of the country. A new goal is set before us, a new slogan strikes our ears.

The Saratoga Springs conference of the American Library Association last June made it clear that the library of the future is to be an active, and no longer merely a passive, force in the intellectual life of the community. It is to seize and occupy a field which has long been waiting for it—that of constructive educational work for those who have passed the school age. Readers are not only to be invited to use the resources of the library; they are to receive active help and encouragement in pursuing the studies which they wish to carry on. "Adult Education" has at last been discovered to be the public library's true sphere of usefulness, and the call for mobilization has been issued.

The Boston Public Library is preparing for an active part in this splendid campaign. Mr. Belden, our Director, has been chosen a member of the A.L.A. Commission on Adult Education. The well-known list of "Free Public Lectures and Public Educational Courses," long published annually as a feature of the Library Bulletin, appears this fall in a new form, with the title "Opportunities for Adult Education in Greater Boston." The emphasis of our work is to be shifted in the direction of a larger and more varied expert service to those who seek our help.

The great document in the new movement—the "campaign text-book"—is to be Mr. William S. Learned's inspiring book, "The American Public Library and the Diffusion of Knowledge," just issued by the Carnegie Corporation. The program set forth by Mr. Learned providing, as it does, for a specialized service of interpretation in every department of learning, heralds the coming of a new and higher standard of library work, which will put every library employee on his mettle, and give him both problems and satisfactions akin to those of the teaching profession. For him, as

for the public, the new movement spells unlimited opportunity.

F. H. C.

On Wednesday, November 5th, the Round Table of Children's Librarians held a birthday party in the Library. This organization of the Children's Librarians of eastern New England holds nearly all its meetings in the Boston Public Library, where Miss Jordan started it eighteen years ago. Miss Alice Hazeltine, of the Providence Public Library, spoke, and tea was afterwards served in the Staff Room to about sixty guests. The branch librarians were also invited to be present.

A recent addition to the Library staff is the infant son of Mr. and Mrs. James S. Kennedy. The youngster is now almost five months on his way toward B. P. L. Mr. Kennedy is a member of the Shelf Department, and Mrs. Kennedy was formerly Miss Marie Gross of the Registration Desk.

During June, a son was likewise born to Mr. and Mrs. William J. Mulloney. Mr. Mulloney is well-known as the First Assistant at the Center Desk in Bates Hall.

In its August issue, the *Library Journal* published an article by Mr. Chase, entitled "What the People are Reading in Boston," based on his address at the A. L. A. Conference at Saratoga Springs.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The lack of a quorum prevented the transaction of business at the regular October meeting of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association scheduled to be held in the Staff Class Room at 5 p.m., October 7th.

The meeting was adjourned subject to the call of the President.

[This is certainly an easy way of getting the meeting over with in jig time; unfortunately, its applications are, at best, somewhat limited. It is therefore suggested that, in the future, some of the older, more reliable methods be employed.—ED.]

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume IV, No. 3

December 15, 1924

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK	21	THE SUPERINTENDENT	27
TAPS	22	NEWS NOTES	28
BENJAMIN JOHNSON LANG MEMORIAL	23	PUBLICATIONS	29
LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES	24	BUSY EXECUTIVES DISCOVER BOOKS	30
COMING MIRACLE PLAYS	24	THE STAFF CLUB'S FIFTH BIRTHDAY	31
"MAKE A LIST"	25	"WITHOUT ESCORT"	32
EDITORIALS	26	SICK LIST	32

CHILDREN'S BOOK WEEK.

It began well in advance of November tenth. All the best of the new books for children were put aside and kept out of sight, in order that the opening of the annual book display should be an event.

The Children's Room was made attractive by flowers and by the unusual collection of interesting originals of the illustrations in some of the recent books published in Boston. From the Houghton Mifflin Company there were two large paintings for books in the Riverside Bookshelf; Little, Brown and Company lent two from the Beacon Hill Bookshelf, and the Atlantic Monthly Company sent us two drawings for "The Mutineers," and "The Dark Frigate," by Charles Boardman Hawes. To his work the A. L. A. awarded the Newbery Medal for 1924.

Just for contrast with the tempting array of new books, there was a show case of little old books, New England Primers, chap books and early toy books. In this collection the place of honor was held by the oldest book owned by the Library, that is, if you call it a book. It is a round tablet used in the temple schools of Assyria, more than three thousand years ago. This disc of hardened clay is inscribed with cuneiform, or wedge-shaped charac-

ters, the master's exercise on one side, the pupil's copy on the other.

Everyone in the Children's Department had a share in the week's programme. The captivating poster, which, from the front corridor, still calls the attention of parents to the importance of children's reading, was the work of Miss Mary Doyle.

Miss Toy, with the able assistance of other members of the Department, prepared for the children a contest in assigning correct names to the characters in a group of pictures without titles, arranged on the bulletin board. Over one hundred children handed in lists of names made out according to their knowledge of books, or the ingenuity of their guesses. Three book prizes were given later for the best answers.

Such a deluge of questions about this feature! "Must I give the names of all the children and the rats who followed the Pied Piper?"

Miss Jordan gave six book talks during Children's Book Week, and two the week following. These were given before varied groups, including two schools, a Mothers' Club, two gatherings in Branch libraries, a Kindergarten Alumnae Association, a bookstore, and the miscellaneous audience that "listens in" to a radio programme.

Naturally, the last was most exciting, as a wholly new experience. There

was the sound-proof "studio," hung round with draperies of a quiet gray, furnished with a heavy velvet carpet and luxuriously upholstered chairs. In the middle, on a small table, was the disc of mysterious power, with its long electric cord attachment.

"The Club Woman's programme" started off with a phonograph record, followed by "Fish Confidences," by Miss Blank, the model for the novice to imitate.

Miss Blank seated herself beside the little table, a glass of water on a chair before her,

"Good morning, Everybody," said she.

Shades of our first school days!

"Good morning, children."

"Good morning, Miss Pinnock."

Miss Blank was speaking,

"Receipt for devilled shrimps: Half a cup of shrimp meat."

For half an hour Miss Blank talked about shrimps and one had time to become thoroughly accustomed to the thought of an "invisible audience of unknown magnitude." It was an excellent tonic for nervousness.

When Miss Blank finished there was another phonograph record. Then, "WNAC, the Shepard Stores. The next number on the programme will be, 'Reading Aloud to the Children.'" We were off.

Before the adventurer returned to the Library, word came over the telephone to the Children's Room that our first Library broadcast had been heard with satisfaction in West Roxbury.

A. M. J.

TAPS.

It was a clear sunny morning with a hint of winter in the air. In the courtyard, the Library choristers who had arrived early, and without hats, shivered a little. The draped flag between the windows attracted many of the curious. At eleven, library officials, committee members, and guests entered the courtyard, which by then was crowded with expectant standees.

Rev. Monsignor Arthur T. Connolly opened the exercises with the Lord's Prayer, followed by a grave and beautiful invocation. Mr. Belden then

recalled to us those tense days, seven years ago, when the library staff was making payments on Liberty Bonds, knitting sweaters and attending classes in first aid. He spoke at length of the twelve gallant young men of the library who served with the colors. Of these, three did not return to us.

All who used the newspaper room in the days before the war remember the nice, fair-haired boy, always so willing to find you the home town paper for the month before last. This was Frank J. Krigel, who joined Battery B, 55th Coast Artillery, and died near Brest, France, January 13, 1919.

The other two men were members of the evening force. William J. Corbett, Naval Air Service, was assistant in the Patent Room, and Harold N. Donovan, 304th Infantry, 76th Division, served in the Barton Library. The Boston Public Library mourns three brave soldiers.

The memorial tablet was presented to the Library by Mr. Walter Rowlands, of the Fine Arts Department, through whose interest and unflinching efforts the memorial came to completion. Mr. Belden then reminded us of the patriotic zeal of Miss Maud M. Morse, who, as chairman of the Benefit Association Relief Committee, did so much to help the boys in the service during those difficult days of war. It was altogether fitting that she should unveil the memorial. She touched the cord and the flag fell away from the simple and exquisite bronze tablet, showing a drawn sword wreathed in laurel. The sculpture is the work of Frederick W. Allen.

The speech of acceptance by Judge Michael J. Murray, Vice-President of the Board of Trustees, was most stirring. He emphasized the necessity of personal service in everyday life as well as during wartime. A magnificent evergreen wreath was then placed on a stand below the tablet by Mr. John J. Krigel, father of the heroic Frank.

Mr. E. Mark Sullivan, Corporation Council of the City of Boston, representing the mayor, spoke briefly, concluding with a masterly recitation of "In Flanders Fields." The library was most fortunate in securing Major-General Edward L. Logan as orator

of the occasion. No book or play could give a better picture of the horrible futility of war, as well as its queer glory, than his gripping matter-of-fact description of a massed attack. This splendid military man has seen all manner of fighting and knows war at first hand. The exercises closed with a general singing of the national anthem and the slow heart-wringing notes of taps by Bugler Harold Lucey of the Student's Reserve Corps.

Afterwards, luncheon was served to veterans and guests at the Boston Art Club. Most interesting of guests was Mr. Collier of Brighton, a Grand Army man and a great hero-worshipper of Judge Murray. Whenever the judge is announced to speak, you will find Mr. Collier in the audience. His intensive study of the judge's fine powers of oratory has borne fruit, for after luncheon the veteran delivered a delightful speech, at the gracious suggestion of Mr. Belden. M. E. P.

BENJAMIN JOHNSON LANG MEMORIAL.

The executors of the estate of Isabella Stewart Gardner have sent to the Trustees a check for \$5,000 in payment of a bequest to the Library under the will of Mrs. Gardner. The gift was accepted at the meeting of the Trustees held on November 28, and the money has been funded as the Isabella Stewart Gardner Fund. The income will be used to purchase material for the Allen A. Brown Music Library in memory of Benjamin Johnson Lang.

It is eminently fitting that Mr. Lang's name should be memorialized in the Music Room. It has been said of him that "he was so thoroughly interwoven with musical progress of every kind that there is scarcely any classification of musicians in which his name would not fitly find place."

Born in Salem in 1837, he early took up the study of music with his father, and after some study abroad returned to Boston, where he became organist of the South Congregational Church, and later of King's Chapel. He was prominent in securing the great organ for the old Music Hall, and in the life of the Handel and Haydn Society,

being organist for this organization for twenty-five years, and conductor in 1895-96. He founded the Apollo Club, a male chorus, in 1868, and from that time until 1901 was its director. In 1874 he organized the Cecilia Society, which has recently honored itself by selecting for its director the son of the founder, Mr. Malcolm Lang.

Perhaps Mr. Lang's most enduring service was his missionary work teaching, and in presenting great works and bringing great artists before the public. Berlioz's "Damnation of Faust," Brahms's "Requiem," and Wagner's "Parsifal" were all introduced to our concert audiences by him. His influence as a teacher has been far-reaching; among his pupils were Foote, Nevin, Apthorp, and Robinson.

Mr. Malcolm Lang, the son of B. J. Lang, is a member of the present visiting committee of the Boston Public Library, and has given lectures in the Sunday afternoon series and in the course of lectures on the Symphony Concert.

Of Mrs. John L. Gardner it has been said that there are many young musicians, painters, and artists whom she helped in the quietest and most unassuming way. She held a leading position as a patron of the symphony concerts and of all other local musical activities. If her main enthusiasms and interests were directed towards the other fine arts, as assembled in Fenway Court, her graciousness is the more marked in setting aside a memorial to a distinguished Boston musician for the benefit of the music-lovers of the future.

In an article headed "Why Read" in the November issue of *The Tradesman*, the wide-awake quarterly published by the students of the High School of Commerce, occurs the following paragraph:

Find out what resources the Library has. When you enter its portals, you abandon nothing but ignorance. Visit the treasury of civilization at Copley Square. Find out about the Catalogue Room, Bates Hall, the Fine Arts Department, the Magazine and Newspaper Rooms, and not least attractive, the Open-Shelf Room.

It is gratifying to find the high school boys of Boston thus urged to make use of the Library.

LEAVES FROM THE BRANCHES.

TYLER STREET: The following members of the Tyler Street Branch staff are taking courses, or attending colleges:

Miss Kingman, University Extension.

Miss La Rocca, University Extension.

Miss Govone, Teachers' College.

Miss Hayes, Teachers' College.

Miss Sarhani, Boston University.

UPHAM'S CORNER: On Saturday, the 15th, and Monday, the 17th of November, the children's work of the Upham's Corner Branch was transferred to the "tank room" in the Municipal Building, as the use of their reading room was granted on those days to St. Mary's Infant Asylum for a sale of fancy work. When the Library learned what had happened the question was asked, "Where are we to go?" Mr. James J. Dolan, custodian of the building, in a moment of inspiration suggested visiting the basement, where an obsolete swimming pool, used as a store room for chairs and other equipment, seemed to be the only available space. The library staff grasped the possibilities at once. The fair moved into the children's room and the library dived into the pool. One would hardly believe that the vacated "tank" could be turned into such an attractive and unique reading room, but many witnesses spoke of the effect, and the youngsters thronged the place.

WEST ROXBURY: Many helpful suggestions in regard to the selection of books for Christmas gifts were received by the large audience who attended Miss Alice Jordan's instructive lecture on "The Best in Children's Books" at the Book Review meeting in November. Miss Jordan stressed especially those books that treat of foreign lands giving the international point of view, nature books, and the revised editions of the classics. An extensive exhibit of children's books was on display, arranged by Miss Morse, the Librarian.

COMING MIRACLE PLAYS.

On December 20th, in the Library Lecture Hall, there will be given, under the joint auspices of the Public Celebrations Committee of the City of Boston, Boston Community Service, Inc., and the Library, an adapted version of the Nativity cycle of the York Mystery Plays, or, as they are more commonly known, the York Miracle Plays. Of these plays, forty-eight in number, the seven dealing directly with the Christmas story have been chosen for presentation at this time.

"Miracle plays seem to have been acted at York from a very early date; the earliest notice we have of them is in 1378, but they had evidently been performed for many years previously, while in 1394 we find them spoken of as having existed for a very long time, and we know that in 1397 Richard II. was present at their performance." They represent the first attempts at the revival of the drama since the days of the Roman theatre, and were first introduced by the clergy as a means of depicting Biblical scenes to a public unable to read, and often ignorant even of the language employed in the performance. "Very creditable attempts are made to fit the various characters with proper mediums of expression—thus God, Abraham, and the Patriarchs express themselves with becoming gravity and dignity, and Satan, Pharoah, Herod, Pilate, and Caiaphas are blustering, pompous, and daring." The action is usually direct, with little or no complication, but there is a simple, native sturdiness about the pieces which gives to them considerable depth and power. Taken as the straightforward expression of the faith and belief of those who beheld them, they retain a charm and grace for the modern spectator not unlike that which moved the congregations assembled to witness them six centuries ago.

Such presentations were not, however, confined to the churches, as is so frequently supposed, but soon became the property of the various trade guilds, and the right to present its own

special play yearly on the great festival day—generally Corpus Christi—was one greatly prized and jealously guarded by each guild. The stronger organizations retained their interest in a particular piece often for decades, with the result that individual plays became known by the name of the guild by which they were produced—as for example, the Pageant of the Shearmen and Tailors, of the Coventry cycle, which deals with the Nativity story in a particularly extensive manner.

Conversely, the heavy expense connected with the annual production often forced a declining guild to part with its play-right to a younger and more successful rival which was anxious to acquire the prestige to which a place on the Corpus Christi Day program would entitle it. There is no record that any guild actually parted with its interest for a monetary consideration, but no doubt many such a body managed to bolster up its tottering finances by auctioning off its agreement to play at a particular spot. For since the performance took place in the street, it was decreed that “those persons should be allowed to have the play before their houses who would pay the highest price for the privilege, but no favor should be shown.” As a result, social climbers and shrewd tradesmen were willing to pay from one to four shillings for the coveted position, a sum equivalent to some five hundred times that amount now.

The action itself took place on top of huge covered wagons, called “pageants,” which were hauled from station to station along the route by horses, or the willing hands of the journeymen and apprentices of the guild in question. Often these pageants were supplemented by other platforms erected nearby. “At the Trial of Christ . . . Herod, Pilate, and the High Priest each had their separate stage, the actors going from one stage to another as the action required.” To be cast for a part seems to have been regarded as quite an honor, and the actors further received some compensation for their services, “in accordance with the length, not the dignity, of their parts. In 1447, God received 6d; in 1484, 8d;

reached the maximum of one shilling. In 1485 Noah got 8d, and his wife 1s, which sums were increased in 1520 to 2s and 1s 6d respectively.” The prompter, who apparently was also “director,” likewise received a salary for “kepyng of the booke.”

Thus were miracle plays produced in Merrie England up to the time of Shakespeare. However, the older and simpler tradition harks back to the days when the actors were the parish priest and the monks from the near-by monastery, and the stage the chancel of the local church, with its pulpit and high altar. Properties were few, and the whole affair was carried off with dignity and sincerity as part of the church service. To this tradition, the forthcoming production will adhere. The stage will be decorated to resemble in a general way a chancel, there will be no curtain, and the action will be accompanied with music as it was in the old days. Miss Joy Higgins, who so successfully directed the Christmas pageant last year, will again have charge. The lighting will be in charge of Mr. William R. Brewster, Mr. Harold E. Lindergreen will be Art Director, and a double quartette from Boston College, supplemented by the Library Chorus under Mr. Appel, will render carols and chants. It is expected that the unusual nature of the performance will attract not a little interest to it.

W. R. B.

“MAKE A LIST.”

“To be sung to the tune of ‘It Never Will Be Missed,’ The Mikado, protracted ‘ad lib.’

“Each week it seems to happen that

A victim must be found,

And they tell us, ‘Make a list!

An annotated list!

To captivate the public and

Make it flock around,

Or else we shall be missed,

Inevitably missed.’

Last week, a tale of gardening

Adorned the pale, pink Press.

The Cleveland Credit Men received

A list of bus-i-ness.

And we revised another one

For junior business fans.

And one expected to entrance

All school cus-to-di-ans.

Next week, if we forget it, they

Will jog us on the wrist.

And say, ‘Let’s make a list,

Another little list!’ ”

(Library Log, Cleveland P. L.)

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

WILLIAM R. BREWSTER	HARRY W. MATHEWS
WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM	MARION A. MCCARTHY
ZOLTÁN HARASZTI	MARY E. PRIM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY	HARRIET SWIFT
LUCIEN E. TAYLOR	

Vol. IV, No. 3. December 15, 1924

Editor-in-Charge for this issue,
Mary E. Prim.

=====

On account of impending mechanical changes in the Printing Department, the editors face the probability that there will be no issue of *LIBRARY LIFE* in January. In the meantime, they wish all the members of the staff a very Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

BETTER ACQUAINTANCE.

When the Staff Club was born, five years ago, the Library staff was crossed by many lines of cleavage, but the chief reason that kept us apart was the fact that many of us did not know each other. This was particularly the case between those whose duties lay in the Central Library and those who carried on at the Branches. We heard of each other, we met occasionally at Benefit Association affairs, but in the main we were strangers.

A recent movement in a Western city was built up on the slogan, "Get acquainted with your neighbor; you may like him." The Staff Club was started with a number of vague ideals in view—the promotion of the professional spirit, the arousing of *esprit de corps*, etc.—but its most important service has lain in bringing us together often enough for us to come to know and like each other. Eight times a year for five years, members from the Central Library and from the Branches have worked together on committees and carried on meetings; we have planned together and played together,

and it has been good both for us and for the Library.

The professional spirit thrives on the opportunity for initiative and the recognition of one's services; a pride in the institution results when one feels that one is doing something real in carrying it on, and that what one is doing is appreciated. The Staff Club has given many opportunities for such initiative and such recognition.

Esprit de Corps means "sense of the whole," and this has certainly grown with the growth of the Club. We get each other's point of view better than we used to, largely because we know each other better. The separate compartments of the Library are losing their distinctness, as we all feel more and more that the institution is a unit. Let the good work go on. "Here's to our better acquaintance."

THE EXAMINING COMMITTEE.

The Library welcomes its new Examining Committee. For the seventy-second time a group of representative citizens, men and women, has been invited to serve the city and the Library by looking into our condition and making report on our merits and our faults, our accomplishments and our needs. Many of the most eminent and public-spirited citizens of Boston have in years past contributed time and thought in this way to the problems of the Library, and much of the progress of the institution is due to suggestions which first saw the light in their reports. Each year they listen to us patiently, each year they ponder upon our difficulties, each year they give to the needs of the Library a publicity which is obtained in no other way.

It was a beneficent provision of the Ordinance which called the Library into being which required the appointment of an Examining Committee each year—a group of citizens having no connection with the institution, bringing open minds to the consideration of its affairs. In all the changes of organization which have followed, this provision has never been repealed, and each year busy men and women have

been glad to give this disinterested service, which means more to the Library than most of us realize. They are untrammelled in the expression of their opinion; and this opinion, unpalatable as it has sometimes been, is printed without any revision in the Annual Report of the Library.

The Library and its staff are grateful for these reports, with the new vision which they bring. And no Committee has ever deserved better of the institution than that of last year, whose report was singularly full of valuable suggestions, put in form so definite as not to be capable of misunderstanding or neglect. Every member of the staff who has not read this report should do so without delay; there is encouragement for every one of us in it, and stimulus to better things.

This year's Committee has a high standard set for it by the Committee of a year ago; we feel sure that it will show the same interest, the same intelligence, the same courage. Its Vice-Chairman, Mr. Henry Lewis Johnson, is an old friend of the Library, a lover of books and an artist in print, who is teaching to his classes each year the honest craftsmanship essential to the making of good books. He knows the Library through and through, and we look forward to the report which will take form under his hand. Once more, welcome to our friends, the Examining Committee!

WHAT PRICE GLORY?

As Mr. Krigel placed the wreath upon the tablet which had just been unveiled, on the morning of Armistice Day, there passed across the heart of many a one of us the thought, "That wreath was bought at a great price." It was a symbol of the freshness of the memory of our three heroes, of the fragrance of their service; it was also a reminder of the fact that what they gave was priceless—to be recognized, but never to be paid for.

Life is the best possession we have. And occasions like that solemn dedication service bring home its value. Glory is a fine thing; it stirs and stimulates us for the moment, it looks like

something to work for. But it is not life. We bow our heads in tribute to the sacrifice which our three honored ones made for their country. But we grasp the hands of the nine who are still with us, and are happy that they have life, in which to do other fine things. They have the "Glory of going on, and still to be."

THE SUPERINTENDENT.

Through an unhappy oversight, the name of Mr. William F. Quinn, the new Superintendent of Buildings, who was appointed on May 19, was omitted from the list of new appointments published in the last number of LIBRARY LIFE. Mr. Quinn has already shown himself a valuable member of the Library family, and we welcome him to our number.

A graduate of the Rindge Technical School in Cambridge, Mr. Quinn came to the Library from service as engineer-in-charge of the Harvard Square Station of the Boston Elevated Railway. He is a veteran of the World War, in which he served as a lieutenant in the Navy, aboard the U. S. S. *Utah*; he has also been an officer on the vessels of the Ward Line.

Mr. Quinn's capacities met a severe trial in connection with the recent inundation of the Library by water from the broken aqueduct main in Copley Square. Routed out of bed at four in the morning, he was on the job early and late, wet and dry, until the worst of the trouble was over. Through his efforts a half-forgotten engine and generator were brought into commission, and the Library was kept going until the regular dynamos had a chance to dry out. A new man seldom has a better opportunity to show what he can do; and Mr. Quinn earned the gratitude of both staff and public by the unexpected speed with which he got the elevator at work and the tubes and lights again in running order. Four o'clock in no novelty to a man used to taking his watch at sea; and water has apparently become for Mr. Quinn a native element in which he can both live and work. Welcome to our amphibious Engineer!

NEWS NOTES.

Mr. Belden, Chairman of the Boston Committee of the American Merchant Marine Library Association, was one of the speakers at the Annual Meeting of the Local Committees of the Association from the port cities, held at the offices of the American Steamship Owners' Association, 11 Broadway, New York City, on Thursday, December 4th. In addition to the Director, Boston was represented by Mrs. I. Tucker Burr, Mrs. Theodore G. Bremer, and Mrs. George R. Fearing.* At

*Mrs. Henry Howard, the President of the Association, who presided, was formerly a resident of Boston.

the invitation of the Rev. A. R. Mansfield, the company had lunch at the Seamen's Church Institute. Following the afternoon session, the members in attendance visited the S.S. *Leviathan*, where, after an inspection of the great ocean liner, afternoon tea was served in the main dining saloon.

A second illustrated article on the treasures of the Library, entitled "The Lure of the Past—II. Some ancient specimens of the printer's art in the Boston Public Library," from the pen of Mrs. Pauline Carrington Bouvé, appeared in *Zion's Herald* for Nov. 19th.

Mr. Robert Dixon, our popular shipper, was recently elected a director of the Faneuil Improvement Association.

Mr. John F. Locke, who was first assistant in the Shelf Department previous to his retirement in 1923, died at his home in Dorchester on Wednesday, November 26, after a brief illness. The funeral services were held in the First Church of Roxbury, Eliot Square, on Friday, November 28. Many of Mr. Locke's former associates in the Catalogue and Shelf departments attended.

Rt. Rev. Arthur Cayley Headlam, Bishop of Gloucester, visited the Library on December 3d. He was accompanied by Bishop Lawrence on his tour of the building.

The Staff Bulletin Board in the Central Library has conspicuously brightened the past few months by the clever posters prepared as Staff Club monthly announcements by Miss Edith Gustafson of East Boston Branch. We are most grateful to Miss Gustafson for her generosity in agreeing to provide posters for the entire Staff Club year.

Miss Isabel E. Wetherald, who retired from the service on April 30, 1923, was reappointed on December 4 as general assistant in the East Boston Branch. LIBRARY LIFE congratulates Miss Wetherald on her return to health and service.

Those good friends of the library, Mr. and Mrs. James Ernest King, are the proud parents of a daughter, born November 7, Miss Celia Durant King. This name should be most effective on a concert programme, if the young lady inherits the talents of her mother, whose beautiful voice is remembered by those members of the Staff Club who heard her sing the aria from *Madame Butterfly* between the acts of that drama last year at the North End Branch. Mr. King is the "Librarian" of the *Transcript*.

Newspaper clippings of criticism of the important plays at Boston theatres have been collected by Miss M. Louise Cassidy, and may be read in the Barton Room, Special Libraries Department. This collection will be kept up to date throughout the winter season.

During the past month, the 300 members of the freshman class of the Teachers College of the City of Boston visited and examined the Library, under the guidance of Miss Wadsworth, the Librarian of the College.

The *Sunday Herald* of November 30 contained an illustrated article on "Book Worms," accompanied by a portrait of Mr. Belden.

The Peter Claver Prize, given by Archbishop Messmer of Milwaukee,

for the best essay on Catholic Missionary Work among the colored people of the United States between 1776 and 1886, was awarded to Miss Miriam T. Murphy of the Catalogue Department, for her essay published in the June number of the *Records of the American Catholic Historical Society*.

PUBLICATIONS.

The arrival of the mail is always an event, and every subscriber feels delight in opening his magazines on the first of the month. There are serials and short stories for the fiction-fans, special articles for the highbrows, poetry for lovers, and advertisements for everybody. This much at least is offered by any magazine that must circulate or perish. The publishers vie with one another in the quest for better writers and best sellers.

So also with libraries. There is the readers' interest, matched by the zest of the staff in forecasting the demand incident to current events—lectures, sports, concerts, debates, drama. There is no direct revenue from sworn circulation, but circulation is nevertheless as vital as with the magazines. Readers come to the library as their natural guide in the world of print, and the service of understanding and meeting their needs, as infinitely varied as their lives, requires intelligence, education, technical training, and sympathy—in a word, background—of the highest order.

Our Library serves metropolitan Boston. Our publications cover an ever increasing range of interests, they are the keys to the treasures of our collections. The pamphlets and lists which have appeared since the May issue of *LIBRARY LIFE* may well invite your attention:

DRAMA.

With us this is a blue-ribbon subject. In the Barton Room we have the First Folio, other Shakespeare books, and the Brown Dramatic Collection. Readers—speakers—come to us from the many schools of elocution and dramatic art in the Back Bay, and youth will be served. So we point

with pardonable pride to the 3d edition of *One-Act Plays in English, 1900-1923* (Brief Reading List No. 14), compiled by Michael J. Conroy, of the Bates Hall Reference Desk.

CHILDREN'S READING.

This comes close to our hearts. Seldom it is that the official titles fit so happily the work and personality of the attendants, dear to the children, as do "Supervisor of Work with Children," and "Children's Librarian." This department is represented by two lists, each by Miss Jordan, Supervisor; they are: Graded Lists of Books for Children's Reading, Grades III and IV, V and VI, VII and VIII, each in the 3d edition; and Nature Studies: plant and animal life, 2d edition (Brief Reading List No. 18).

REAL ESTATE.

Within our own ranks we have competent compilers for our lists, but we can, like Molière, assimilate a good thing, wherever we find it. So when, in these days of rackrenting, a list on Real Estate for the General Reader was offered by Professor Donald W. MacArdle, Director of Real Estate Courses, Boston University College of Business Administration, we seized opportunity by the forelock and printed Ten-Book List No. 106.

INDIANS OF AMERICA.

Not since the exhibition of Beadle's Dime Novels has a topic having so many thrills come to light. The occasion was the lecture of Sunday, November 30, "The Pueblo Indians," by George H. Browne, supplemented by the display of books and life-sized portraits in the Fine Arts Department, and the exhibition of selected arts and crafts at the Twentieth Century Club, December 1 to 5. Therefore Ten-Book List No. 107, title as above, was made.

SYMPHONY CONCERTS.

For each lecture given at the Library on the current Symphony Concerts, Mr. Appel has prepared a leaflet containing the programme of the concert and a list of books in the Library, including scores, criticisms, recordings, and music rolls.

OPPORTUNITIES FOR ADULT EDUCATION.

This is the familiar annual list of free lectures, with the new title: "Opportunities for Adult Education in Greater Boston: free public lectures and public educational courses, 1924-1925." Besides our own lectures, this list includes the Lowell Lectures, the courses offered by the Massachusetts Department of Education, Division of University Extension, by the Commission on Extension Courses, and by fifteen other schools, colleges, clubs and associations of Greater Boston.

The list is reduced from the size of the old Quarterly Bulletin, and appears now for the first time as a 12mo, convenient for the hand, and in open, clear print, pleasing to the eye. If we may risk a suggestion, with so many lectures (and some duplicates), an index by subject for the student, and a schedule by day and hour, as answer to the frequent question: "What lecture is given to-night?" would make the contents even more available. In typography and arrangement the list offers an interesting example of a new style in this variety of publication.

In this connection mention should be made of *Adult Education*, the new bulletin which the A. L. A. has created as organ of its Commission (of seven) on the Library and Adult Education, and of which our Director is a member. The current number is a prospectus, with list of selected readings on the subject. The policy of the bulletin is, while reporting the work of the Commission and the activities of libraries in adult education, to encourage librarians in undertaking suitable extensions of service for the benefit of their communities, and to stimulate adult education as a necessary foundation for an understanding of the place of the public library in American life.

L. E. T.

 BUSY EXECUTIVES DISCOVER BOOKS.

The November meeting of the Special Libraries Association was held on November 24th in the rooms of Jackson and Moreland, Park Square building.

The indefinite notice that the speakers were to be "special" proved to be true. The business manager, the statistician, and the engineer gave us an interesting sidelight on the profession.

Mr. Dowse, one of the managers of the Dennison Manufacturing Co, of Framingham, spoke on "Why I am sold on the industrial library." He said that his own education was obtained by constant reading, but he regretted that he had not made a more definite program. The uniqueness of the Dennison Company makes them more dependent upon the men in the ranks for their executives, and their success depends upon book knowledge. The library is building slowly by "feeding mouthfuls to the executives." Mr. Dennison, the president, helps the rank and file realize the value of reading by "farming out the book," which means that he gives a book to one of the workmen to read and report to him about its value. This method invariably creates a greater interest, starts a discussion, and naturally leads others to read for themselves.

Mr. Warren, of the Federal Reserve Bank, spoke on "What I expect of a Librarian." The Librarian is often more important than the books, and it is often his duty to "sell the library" to the superior. Digesting of important magazine articles is one of the most effective means of passing information to a busy executive. One should try to "sell an opinion" by personal contact, if possible. Biographies are an important part of any business library. It is the Librarian's duty to find the hidden treasures and bring them forth for the right customer.

The last speaker was Mr. Wood, of Stone and Webster, who spoke of the value of libraries to the engineering profession.

M. C. K.

 THE STAFF CLUB'S FIFTH BIRTHDAY.

Seventy-five members of the Club, from the Branches and the Central Library, met in the Staff Class Room on the evening of Tuesday, November 25, for the celebration of the Club's fifth birthday and of the seventieth

anniversary of the opening of the Library.

PICTURES.

The social gathering, which always begins the meetings so pleasantly, centered around a display of photographs of the different departments of the Library, with many well-known portraits. The photographs were selected and arranged by Walter Rowlands, Chief of the Fine Arts Division.

BOOKS OF THE CLUB.

Here also was seen a file of programmes of the Club's entertainments, librettos of plays presented, and a copy of the song with which the programme of the evening was concluded. These books, which are specially bound, and stamped with the Club's initials in gold, have been given to the Library, and located in the Brown Collections. A copy of the order of exercises, showing the Memorial Tablet which was dedicated on Armistice Day, was mounted and displayed as a broadside.

SIX-MINUTE SKETCHES.

In the regretted but unavoidable absence of Miss Harvey, the President, and of Miss Sheridan, the Vice-President, the earlier numbers of the programme were announced by Mr. Graham, of the Committee, and the later ones by the chairman. In his "Sketch of the Staff Club," Mr. Taylor recited briefly the titles of plays given and names of the persons who have entertained the Club. The other speakers were Mr. Chase, Miss Guerrier, and Miss Jordan, each a charter member of the Club. Mr. Chase, in "The Seed and the Plant," traced with kindly allegory the growth and fruits of the Club; Miss Guerrier, in "Circulation and Publicity," gave statistics gleaned from early annual reports of the Library, in amusing contrast to present conditions; and Miss Jordan's "Gallery" was a series of poetic pictures of old times. For the music, Miss Edith von Schoppe sang "Memory Lane" with appropriate interpretation, and Nicholas Pisano, a youthful violinist of Boston, received well-deserved applause for his masterly playing.

THE BIRTHDAY GIFT.

No birthday is complete without remembrance, that last delicate touch that means perfect happiness. The climax of the evening was a gift, a song dedicated to the Club especially for the occasion, and with the composer's gracious best wishes written in his own hand across the title-page. The song was "Priscilla of Pilgrim Town," and the composer was Jack O'Brien, of the Bindery, the popular author of many a lyric heard by radio and otherwise. This song had been broadcast, but was absolutely unpublished, and was now sung for the first time before any audience. Mr. O'Brien was unable to be present, but the Committee was fortunate in finding a member so gifted and so kind as Miss Alice E. Hanson, of the Ordering Department, who sang, played the accompaniment, and won for the song and herself a success of genuine enthusiasm.

SOUVENIRS AND REFRESHMENTS.

There were printed programmes, provided by a good friend, with the toast, "Here's to our better acquaintance." The souvenirs were bookmarks of leather of various colors, stamped "Staff Club, 1919-24," contributed by members of the Bindery. The lamps were shaded with delicate crepe paper: on the desk was a basket of flowers of the same material, with premier pink roses, white and pink carnations, and ferns. The poster was made by Miss Edith Gustafson. The refreshments were ice cream, with four large birthday cakes, each decorated with the correct number of candles, and all given by generous members of the Club.

ORCHESTRA.

The Staff Club Orchestra played introductory selections, and music for the dancing, and was made up as follows: violins, William Clegg, Miss Edith Daly; piano, Miss May Galvin, Miss Ruth Hayes, Miss Annette Levin; drums, Joseph Gallagher. The committee for the evening were: L. E. Taylor, chairman, William F. A. Graham, Miss Edith Gustafson, Miss Margaret C. Lappen, Miss Helen R. Needham.

The record attendance at this meet-

ing, which was so representative, seems to show an increasing interest in the work and play of the Club. The founders believed that the Library and the Staff would profit by such an opportunity as the meetings of the Club, with its paper, *LIBRARY LIFE*, would offer, for free expression, whether in social gatherings, in literary, musical and dramatic entertainments, or in the informal discussion of library affairs. If in America, in this new century, the libraries are to take part in the development of the arts, surely the life of a group like the Staff Club may become no mean factor.

The Club's Christmas Party will be held on Tuesday evening, December 30th, at 7.45 p.m., in the Staff Class Room. No member should miss meeting Santa Claus. The Committee hint a very interesting holiday programme.

L. E. T.

"WITHOUT ESCORT."

Several enjoyable features marked the November luncheon party at which the feminine members of the Branch and Information Departments met in the Branch Bindery Room on Tuesday, November 18th.

Seventeen persons gathered around the tables cosily clustered together, and substantially praised the menu prepared and served by Miss Dorothy E. Harvey, Miss Margaret Lappen and Miss Ruth Sturges. This committee used their ingenuity with a given sum and produced a delicious meal.

During the luncheon Miss Dorothy Harvey, whose engagement to Mr. Robert L. Turner was recently announced, was presented by her associates with a breakfast set decorated by Miss Hilda Baker, the Library's artistic "poster girl." Hearty good wishes accompanied the gift.

The recent Armistice Day exercises in the Library had reminded Miss Edith Guerrier of stirring scenes and events in Washington on that memorable November 11, 1918. She told of various official happenings in those hectic days and passed around autographed letters of interesting import.

The meeting adjourned, to gather

again on December 23rd for a general Christmas party.

M. R. M.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

There will be an adjourned meeting of the Boston Public Library Employees Benefit Association in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library on Tuesday, January 6, 1925, at 11 a.m., for the nomination of officers and any other business which may properly come before the meeting.

SICK LIST.

LIBRARY LIFE regrets this month to note the illness of Miss Mary A. Reynolds of the Issue Department, and Miss Loraine A. Sullivan, of the Fine Arts Department.

A warm greeting is extended to Miss Mary McDermott, Bindery Department, Miss Lydia Mongiovi, Issue Department, Mr. Frank Hannigan, Periodical Department, and Mr. James Sullivan, Shelf Department, who have returned after an enforced absence through illness.

The Copley Club's annual dance, held at the Chateau, Friday evening, November 21, was a big success socially and financially. A great many of the staff were present and specially enjoyed the snappy music of Jack Barry and his jazz orchestra. Mr. Barry is a former member of the junior staff, and is now a student at Boston College.

It will be recalled that members of local Shakespeare Clubs, under the direction of Mrs. Frederick H. Briggs, gave a dramatic reading of "King Henry IV, Part I," in the Lecture Hall of the Library last year. This year, on the afternoon of Sunday, November 23d, the same group presented "King Henry IV, Part II," with Mr. Belden reading the part of the Earl of Northumberland.

A review of Miss Gladys E. Locke's thrilling novel, "The Purple Mist" (Boston, Page & Co., 1924, \$1.90, intended for this issue, has unfortunately been crowded out.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume IV, No. 4

January 15, 1925

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
OUR OWN LITTLE "MIRACLE"	33	EDITORIALS	40
BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	34	CHAVANNES — A PORTOLAN ATLAS —	
BEFORE AND AFTER CHRISTMAS	35	POE — SUBERCASEAUX	41
HAND-PICKED READING	36	CHRISTMAS AT THE BRANCHES	42
IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM	36	NEWS NOTES	44
CROSS-WORDITIS	37	THE OUTSIDE WIRE	46
INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAIL SERVICE	38	A SCHOLAR'S THRILLER	48
RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD REFERENCER	39	ANNUAL ASSOCIATION PARTY	48

OUR OWN LITTLE "MIRACLE".

Of all the various activities which marked the Christmas season in Copley Square, probably none was more important or attracted wider interest than the seven Miracle Plays from the York Cycle which were presented under the joint auspices of the City, Community Service, and the Library on the afternoon and evening of December 20th. All those who attended are agreed that they were the "high spot" of the season's celebration and a well-nigh perfect example of what the "religious drama" can and should be. As Reinhardt's "Miracle" in New York had already proved on a far grander scale, the ability of costume, of scenery, of modern lighting to enhance the dignity and solemnity even of the Church was again amply demonstrated.

To the sturdy naiveté and simple sincerity of the eleventh century text was added the dignified, unhurried flow and careful elimination of the jarring note that alone can make these revivals the beautiful and inspiring performances for the modern spectator which they were for their public of six centuries ago. To Miss Higgins as director and coördinator, every praise is due.

On entering the Lecture Hall before the performance, one's first im-

pression was that one had inadvertently strayed into a church by mistake. Yet to those who are familiar with the auditorium — its blank stage, its rows of electric fans, its glaring "exit" signs, its unwieldy portraits adorning the walls — anything further removed from a church is scarcely imaginable. But, as was said of the Century Theatre in New York after it had been remodeled for the Reinhardt production, "the miracle of the century is the Century of the 'Miracle'." So in the case of the Library presentation, the most amazing part was the way in which the ordinarily barren Lecture Hall was transformed into a fourteenth century chapel, in atmosphere, at least, if not in complete detail.

Along the walls on either side stood tall candles, lighted by hooded monks as they moved slowly up the aisles to the chant of "Sanctus"; by their dim rays, the black and gold rood-screen, with its delicate fretwork silhouetted against the soft duskiness of the chancel, stood out slender and graceful, dividing the stage-space into three perfectly balanced openings. One of these, the left-hand, was almost filled by the high pulpit, from which the Angel Gabriel presently looked down upon the Virgin during the Annunciation scene. Across the right-hand one, a gorgeous tapestry — borrowed perhaps from the Lord of the Manor — had been stretched to form a back-

ground for the solid, carven chair which at the proper time was to represent Herod's throne. At the rear, where was the altar, curtains had been draped into a sort of shelter, and these — as climax to the piece — were parted by two angels and the tableau of the Adoration took place.

To increase the ecclesiastical effect further, two altars, with their lighted candles, their white cloths, and their gilded crosses were placed, one on each side of the hall, at the front of the auditorium. Behind them, richly embroidered curtains served to screen the bareness of the walls. Over the huge portraits were hung drapes, decorated with the signs and symbols of the Church, and from the pedestals along the sidewalls, images of Saints smiled benignly upon the audience. A set of central steps, leading from the main aisle onto the stage, completed the transformation.

In this setting, admirably conceived and ably executed, the Nativity Plays appeared to full advantage. Now in white light, now in amber, in blue, in orange, in moonlight, as the feeling of the scenes demanded, the figures moved, some brilliantly costumed, some somberly arrayed. Now was the light around the manger golden as became the Prince of Peace; now green and mysterious, as befitted the majesty of God. As the monks from the nearby monastery might have played in the old days — with straightforward simplicity as part of the regular service — so did the actors of 1924 move and speak, even to the old, old monk at his prie-dieu on the right who nodded peacefully through the service as he must have done a hundred times before! And ever and again the rich voices of the "angelic choir" were raised in grand old chants and carols.

So was the thrill which moved men's souls six hundred years ago brought down, revived for us. Then at length the hall returned for the last time to the "dim religious light" which had at all times remained unchanged, a majestic undercurrent, symbolic of the Church, and slowly the two old monks began to extinguish the candles on the altars. The service was over.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

A meeting of the Benefit Association was held in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library on Tuesday, January 6, with Mr. Mooers, as President, in the chair.

After the discussion of several current affairs, it was voted, upon motion of Mr. O'Brien, that the President appoint a committee of three to draw up plans for making loans to members from the funds of the Association, with full power vested in same. For this purpose the President appointed the following committee: James W. Kenney, Michael J. Conroy, John J. O'Brien.

Nominations of Officers for 1925-1926 were as follows:

President: James S. Kennedy, Shelf Dept.
Vice-President: Frank H. Chase, Reference Librarian.

Secretary: James P. J. Gannon, Bindery Dept.

Treasurer: Frank C. Blaisdell, Issue Dept.
Financial Secretary:

Michael J. Conroy, Bates Hall Reference Desk.

Morris J. Rosenberg, Statistical Dept.

Board of Directors:

Alice M. Jordan, Children's Room.

James P. Mooers, Bindery Dept.

Relief Committee (five):

Marion A. McCarthy, Branch Dept.

Mary Reynolds, Issue Dept.

Katherine Collins, Bindery Dept.

William Clegg, Periodical Room.

Robert F. X. Dixon, Branch Dept.

Welfare Committee (five):

George H. Connor, Shelf Dept.

Joseph A. Crowley, Patent Room.

William A. McGowan, Shelf Dept.

Margaret C. Sheridan, South End Branch.

SICK LIST.

We extend our sympathy to those of our associates who are on a protracted absence through illness: Miss Loraine Sullivan, Fine Arts Dept., Miss Alice V. Stevens, Branch Dept., Miss Mary A. Reynolds, Issue Dept., Miss Margaret Rooney, Brighton Branch.

It is a pleasure to note the return of Miss Olive Neilson of Upham's Corner Branch after an absence of several months.

BEFORE AND AFTER CHRISTMAS.

Having read our opening article, you won't say that the Boston Public Library lacked the Christmas spirit. We had a pageant, but also carols, parties, a tree, stories and gifts — everything. There was a wreath in the Open Shelf Room with a red candle, which was lighted Christmas eve. On the bulletin board at the Blagden Street entrance was Mr. Belden's greeting to the staff, a large wreath, studded with pine cones, fragrant of the woods. The showcase in the Children's Room was occupied by a manger scene, with white sheep on rugged brown hills under the stars, and a Christmas tree had been placed in Priscilla's cottage during her absence. Everywhere, Christmas was celebrated with earnestness and warmth.

But, narrating here all, we must keep sequence.

At noon the day before Christmas the Library Choristers, under the direction of Mr. Appel, gathered on the landing of the main stairs and sang carols. The effect of the blended men's and women's voices in "Noël" and "Good King Wenceslas" was very beautiful. There was a large and appreciative audience in the vestibule below and on the promenade above.

Two days before Christmas, the Branch and Information Departments held an elaborate party with a tree, favors, and surprise presents, drawn by a string from Santa's pack. Miss Maud M. Morse, formerly connected with the Branch Department, and now a lady of leisure, donated a beautiful wreath. Her mother made and filled tarlatan bags of candy for the tree. Miss Guerrier was presented with a brief case by her colleagues of both departments. Mr. Belden and Mr. Chase were guests of honor. It was all very jolly — except, possibly, for Miss McCarthy and Miss Fuller who had to clear up afterwards.

AT THE STAFF CLUB'S PARTY.

Tuesday evening, the 30th of December, the Staff Club held its annual

Christmas Party. A large number of members gathered in the prettily decorated Staff Lecture Room. The party opened with the carols, "Silent Night" and "O little town of Bethlehem" sung by Miss Edith Pratt, accompanied on the piano by Miss Catherine McKeown. Miss Pratt later sang the "Gypsy love song" by Victor Herbert.

And then came the Christmas stories. Mrs. Cronan touched a tender chord as she told "The Skin Horse," a Christmas story of a poor little sick boy and his faithful Pegasus. Mr. Cronan then whisked his audience to Ireland, where they followed Darby O'Gill straight into the midst of the enchanted mountain, where Darby mingled with "the little people" in an effort to rescue Rosy, the heroine of the tale.

As the prolonged applause for the stories died away, Santa Claus arrived, resplendent in his very best Christmas costume, with a large pack full of mysterious looking parcels. In a voice surprisingly like Mr. William Brewster's, Santa greeted his audience, and after some reminiscences of a very remote age he came down to the present — and the presents — which he then distributed. Candy canes, kewpie dolls, toy automobiles, travelettes, and many gay favors were unwrapped, as well as some practical gifts, which, it is said, have since been tucked in hope chests.

Refreshments were then announced, and all flocked into the lunch room where hot chocolate, cakes, and candies were served. Dancing followed, with music supplied by Mr. Joseph Gallagher and Mr. Richard Taylor, both members of the University Dance Orchestra.

The committee in charge of the evening's entertainment consisted of Miss Theodora Scoff, Mt. Bowdoin, Chairman; Miss Ethel Hazelwood, Branch Department; Miss Geneva Watson, West End Branch; Miss Edith Pendleton, Dorchester Branch; and Mr. William Brewster, Catalogue Department. They are to be congratulated on the spontaneity of the Club's response to their efforts. It was a happy party.

HAND-PICKED READING.

The Open Shelf Room has a delightful and singularly faithful public. In fact, the woman who took out the first book is still a treasured friend who regards herself as a sort of god-mother to the department. Retired business men frequent the Open Shelf Room; teachers and pupils of the near-by schools and colleges flock in. One reader keeps a note book and jots down titles which might interest fellow patrons. A Boston teacher supplies a list of books on sociology guaranteed to interest the layman.

The department is small enough to be friendly. (Perhaps it is too much so; it would be friendlier if it were larger.) No red tape trips up the eager book lover. No huge card catalogue terrorizes him. The collection of books is not large, but there is something to tempt every one. It is curious to see books which have languished in the stacks unread for ten or more years take a new lease of life when dusted and put in plain sight. Often a heap of such books are collected from their obscurity and set out on the table just inside the Open Shelf Room. Usually the entire lot is gone within an hour. People have an idea that a book on this table is a rare and priceless work, which probably will never be found in again.

Books of travel and memoirs are always popular. In fact, elderly Boston ladies, who have been entertained by the great, proudly point out their names in such books. Plays are much in demand, owing to the number of dramatic schools about Copley Square. Actors from the two stock companies patronize this collection as well. Those who are planning summer vacations abroad like to read about other people's experiences beforehand. Our selection of French novels are much read by maids and governesses from Back Bay families. Many come in accompanied by their little charges. Readers come from out of town to look over our Spanish, Italian and German collections.

One never can guess in advance what book any one is going to take out.

A genial "rough-neck" is likely to select Max Beerbohm's "Happy Hypocrite." The clerical looking gentleman will probably emerge with a volume of Saint Simon's Memoirs. A nice frail old man loves books on tiger hunting and cannibals. A lawyer reads about the World War exclusively. A young woman, who is secretary to a manufacturer, dotes on nonsense verse. A suburban dentist comes in twice a week for books about Napoleon.

The books in the Open Shelf Room are essentially hand-picked. We recognize no "average reader" but set out each book to catch the eye of some special customer. It is uncanny to watch the very person for whom the book was intended seize it with an air of happy discovery. Such people are so pleased to get "just the book I wanted"; they enthusiastically introduce friends to the Open Shelf Room. These friends appear to appreciate it, for on a late winter afternoon the place is so crowded that it resembles Park Street Station during a rush hour. To run an Open Shelf Room successfully all one needs is five miles of stacks and a good memory.

M. E. P.

IN THE CHILDREN'S ROOM.

New bookcases have been placed in the Children's Room along the walls where the framed autographs from the Chamberlain Collection formerly hung. The space has long been needed for expansion, and, in that position, the autographs were more decorative than legible. Now only the following documents, bearing the autographs of the Signers, remain: the Address to the King by the Congress of October 26 and December 16, 1774; the Declaration of Independence, July 4, 1776, with the final draft of August 2, 1776; the Articles of Confederation; and the Constitution of the United States of America.

The smaller documents have been removed from their frames and placed in envelopes for better protection from the light. They will be kept with the rest of the collection in the Chamberlain Room.

CROSS-WORDITIS.

"A very great part of the mischiefs that vex this world arises from words." — BURKE.

IN BATES HALL.

A writer in the *Boston Transcript* stated recently that the cross-word puzzle craze had not hit Boston in all its intensity. This reporter should have visited the Library on Saturday, January 10, or Sunday, January 11, for on these days all attendance records were broken in Bates Hall.

At three in the afternoon of Saturday 354 persons were grouped about the tables; an hour later 432 were counted — the largest number ever recorded.

On Sunday afternoon at four 398 people were counted, the highest record for Sunday.

It is to be noted that the whole seating capacity of Bates Hall is only 310 chairs.

No one who was not working in Bates Hall on these days can have any realization of what this crowd meant. A regular writer on one of the Boston papers was unable to find any vacant chair on Saturday afternoon. Every dictionary and encyclopedia, every atlas and handbook was in use, and, if a volume was put down on a table, it was snapped up again immediately. People of all ages, men and women, were gathered about the tables. One woman came from Worcester and was rather indignant because the reference books of this Library gave her no direct answer to her search for a five-letter lake. Telephone inquiries came thick and fast, some faintly disguised, others quite openly puzzle questions. The writer had such questions on the telephone as the "name for an old-fashioned turn-down collar," a "Province of Japan in four letters", a "Hindu god in seven letters". Here is a sample of these telephone conversations:

Unknown Voice: "I wish the title of a novel by Rider Haggard in three letters, but not 'She'."

The Writer: "We cannot give out information on cross-word puzzles."

U. V.: "Oh! you can't, too busy, I suppose?"

W.: "Yes: we are all very busy."

U. V. (slowly, very sarcastically): "Oh! too busy. I suppose you were too busy to go out for your lunch today."

Of such incidents has the rush been made up. We draw a benevolent veil over the wear and tear on the reference books. Nothing was sacred — the New Oxford Dictionary suffered just as much as the latest Webster. A careful observer, a man of long training, has made the estimate of at least one hundred dollars in bindery repairs which will be necessitated by this rush.

Of the wear and tear on the nerves of Bates Hall attendants we must not speak, but we do ask the forgiveness of our fellows if we have given outward signs of the turmoil within. H. W. M.

IN THE BARTON.

The Cross Word Puzzle Workers have entered the domain of the Barton Library. Every day new recruits to the increasing throng of contestants come to look at maps, to consult the dictionary for synonyms, or to refer to some odd book.

The small boy and his big brother quickly turn the pages of the bulky atlas, each eager to be first to find the place referred to in the morning puzzle. A little girl borrows the magnifying glass that she may more easily locate a "South American Port." Then comes the mature lady, hesitating a little at first, lest, perhaps, the puzzles are just for the young folks, finally requesting maps to look up a certain lake in Russia, a river in Latvia, or a province in Japan.

But more interesting still is the dear old lady of eighty or thereabouts sitting beside the schoolboy, both searching eagerly for that mysterious "island of five letters" somewhere in the Yellow Sea. She proves indeed that "a puzzle a day keeps the doctor away."

It is all right with the Maps. But Mythology, Botany, History already offer more complication. What would you answer for instance to that Young Lady who insists on having a "list of the Hindu goddesses"? Or to that other (perhaps the same) one who wants to know the name of a particular

tree which used to grow on the banks of the Nile some three thousand years ago? As to the relations of Charlemagne and Harun al Rashid, or the nearer details of the voyages of the Vikings, there have not been any questionings yet. But just wait!

M. L. C.

X X X X X.

What is the poor Library attendant to do in the crisis which is upon us? To yield to his sympathetic impulses, and give active help to the panting throngs which crowd upon him is to put those who receive assistance at an unfair advantage. On the other hand, to refuse stonily every plea for aid, merely saying, "There's the dictionary — if you can get hold of it!" seems to be a denial of all the virtues of the humane librarian. Help to puzzlers should not interfere with other work; but relief may reasonably be granted in extreme cases, where violent illness seems to be threatened. We must at least keep on "the windy side of the law"; a new variety of library experience would be afforded if some kind-hearted attendant should be sued for conspiring to defeat the fairness of a contest.

Pending legislation on the subject, which is confidently expected from the next session of Congress, library attendants will have to be guided by their own judgment of what is at once fair and kind.

INTERDEPARTMENTAL MAIL SERVICE.

In a period of changes (and what period is not?) any innovation must be rather unusual to attract attention. New to this institution is the official interdepartmental mail service begun December twenty-third. The purpose of the system is to establish a regular daily mail service at 9:00 and 11:30 a.m., and at 3:30 p.m., for all departments of the building, through sixty representative assistants. By combining this system with the telephone service it is expected to save time through the elimination of the

former methods of personal communication and special messengers.

A copy of the proposed plan, and a list of the chosen few, were left with each of the sixty. Varied indeed was the reception of the imposing letter, sealed in one of the official envelopes. It ranged from complete approval to the "I'm from Missouri" attitude. On the first trip next day, however, there was absolutely no doubt as to public opinion. Enthusiastic and warm was the welcome in all departments. The messenger was greeted effusively, and presented with communications, including stools and wastebaskets. Toys, not for the messenger, followed later. Many even used the system to solve their Christmas mailing problems. Although swamped, the department carried on bravely and came pretty close to schedule time. After many arguments, those in charge ruled that if "it" can be sealed in an envelope, it's interdepartmental; otherwise . . .

When the first excitement had died down, the service assumed more normal proportions and is now functioning regularly and smoothly. As yet it has not been necessary to establish a dead letter office.

O. K.

Plans are on foot for a Regional Library Conference for the New England States, to be held at the New Ocean House, Swampscott, covering the full week of June 22-27. As the American Library Association meets at Seattle this year (July 6 to 11), the proposed Conference is likely to be a Mecca for eastern librarians, and a really important occasion. It is unnecessary to dilate on the comforts and attractions of the hotel, or the beauty of its surroundings.

In the interesting study of the work of McKim, Mead & White, by C. H. Reilly, recently published by Ernest Benn, Ltd., of London, in the series entitled "Masters of Architecture," appear two fine illustrations of the Boston Public Library, one of which, showing the courtyard, is used as frontispiece to the book.

RECOLLECTIONS OF AN OLD REFERENCER.

"There's many a slip—"

Every reference librarian has at one time or another met intelligent looking readers who show symptoms of a disease unknown, as yet, to the medical fraternity. It is a species of paralysis which afflicts them when in answer to their request for — let us say — Thomas J. Catt's book, "Dogs, their likes and dislikes," they are referred to the card catalogue. Supposing that the enquirer might be able to find the name Catt in the alphabetically arranged cards, the librarian, if new to his work, is surprised a little later by observing the reader, or readeress, gazing helplessly at a tray more or less distant from the C's. In pity he goes to the rescue, and, when more experienced, reflects that after all a card catalogue consisting of over 2700 drawers, excluding fiction and music, may naturally somewhat affright a newcomer.

Less worthy of sympathy are the readers who do not clearly know, or cannot or will not tell, what they want. The strange reluctance of the last named to state their desires wastes much time and is not the least of our troubles in reference work.

But these and other little worries are often lightened by the amusement derived from the absurd questions asked by some readers. I remember one, who, having been told of the existence of a picture which was 50,000 years old, wished to learn what it represented, who painted it, and who owned it! More than once or twice, I have been asked for a book giving a list of all the pictures painted by all the artists (and not only those known to fame) of past and present times. If this utterly impossible task were performed, where could be found a publisher to offer to the world the colossal result? Another reader had once possessed a landscape by an old master whose name he had forgotten and he desired us to find him some reproduction of it. Then there was the man in quest of "Belzebub's costume in the

time of Robin Hood" (one would not suppose that Satan's "first assistant" followed the changes of fashion), another searching for Van Dyck's portrait of the Duke of Wellington, and a third enquirer bent on securing information about "Chinese pottery in the bronze age."

One searcher after knowledge asked for books on houses, of which a number were supplied him. He looked them carefully over one by one and after some time told us that they did not contain the desired information. This we thought was not strange when we learned that he really wanted works on — astrological houses, "houses far asonder," as Chaucer says. I have been requested to furnish text or illustrations concerning the muse "Utopia" (Euterpe), a portrait by "Natalie" (Nattier), and an artist named "Faciebat." And I recall the nice old lady from an ancient New England town who owned an engraving of a woman which she believed to represent Lady Arabella Johnson, from a portrait by Sir Joshua Reynolds. This could hardly be the fact, as Lady Arabella, a daughter of the Earl of Lincoln and wife of Isaac Johnson, the second white inhabitant of Boston, died in 1630, not long after their arrival here with Winthrop's fleet, and Sir Joshua was not born until nearly a century later. After a search I was able to identify the portrait as that of Mrs. Horneck. Though not in the nature of an enquiry, I will mention an odd remark made to me some years ago by a tall and bearded eighty-year-old Grand Army man from California. This veteran disapproved of the memorial lions on our staircase as being — British emblems.

Finally, I know of no more interesting occupation than reference work. In doing it one learns much and experiences in full the pleasures of the chase. To change slightly a famous line, "Age cannot wither it, nor custom stale its infinite variety." W. R.

Overheard in Bates Hall: "I want material on the ancestry of Patrick Henry; I have been told that he was a Hottentot."

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

WILLIAM R. BREWSTER	HARRY W. MATHEWS
WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM	MARION A. MCCARTHY
ZOLTÁN HARASZTI	MARY E. PRIM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY	HARRIET SWIFT
LUCIEN E. TAYLOR	

Vol. IV, No. 4.

January 15, 1925

Editor-in-charge for this issue, Zoltán Haraszti.

We indicated in our last issue that, probably, there would be no LIBRARY LIFE for January. Fortunately, our fear proved groundless, and the technical changes which are in process in the Printing Department have caused only a few days delay in the appearance of the paper.

REGULAR CUSTOMERS.

Every department in the Library has its steady habitués. One who makes the rounds daily becomes speedily familiar with the figures which haunt the various rooms, where some of them have been at home for many years. Real characters they are, most of them, who would do honor to the pages of a novelist, persons who could, if they would — and some of them will — tell stories of careers full of light and shade, of varied achievement, of humor and pathos.

We grow to love these people who share our working-places with us. They are a condition of our life; we miss them when they fail to come. Presuming on old acquaintance, they may sometimes seem over-insistent; but they often mean more to us than does many a one who has a deeper claim upon us. We count on their appreciation; we know their tastes, and like to please them; we depend on them for fresh bits of information or gossip, for a smile of sympathy as we go about our work.

It is these regular customers who give our work much of its stability, and keep us up to pitch. It is easy to respond to a special stimulus, to “play up” on great occasions, to stand with eyes right at inspection. But to be always ready and patient when the familiar face appears and the familiar voice asks a familiar question — that is a test. We all know how much harder it is to behave ourselves at home than when we are on a visit; and these are “home-folks,” with whom, however, we can hardly take the liberties which we allow ourselves by our own firesides.

The coming of these “steadies” is one of our best testimonials of service. Happy the department or Branch where people find themselves at home! There is no better proof that we are giving the public what it wants than their habitual return to our quarters. Every user of the Library is a possible “regular customer”; let it be the ambition of each assistant to win the attachment of these people by sympathetic and understanding service, and thus to surround himself with friends — to himself and to the Library.

The spirit of loyalty in the Library staff has been finely illustrated by the way in which everybody has taken the curtailment of help suddenly made necessary during these last weeks of the fiscal year. Every department is undermanned, but there has been no grumbling; the ranks have been closed up and the work has gone on. One department has stood ready to help another in times of special stress, and there has been a fine spirit of team-play. It is hard times like this — fortunately one of which the end is in sight — that bring us closer together in meeting an emergency which involves us all.

We have learned with sympathy of the death of Mr. Edward S. Goulston, a member of the Examining Committee since 1923. Mr. Goulston was a prominent lawyer and director of several corporations in this city. He was fifty-seven years old.

EXHIBITIONS.

PUVIS DE CHAVANNES.

The centenary of the birth of this great artist was celebrated by a special exhibition at the Library. Manuscript letters and reproductions of many of his works were displayed. Puvis de Chavannes was one of the greatest French painters of the nineteenth century. His name will always be associated with the City of Boston. Nowhere else in America are mural decorations by him. His nine panels are the pride of the Library. The charm of the pale, pastel-like colors, the noble harmony of the powerful lines and forms, all impart unconsciously a sense of force and restfulness as one enters the building. And in colors and lines there is the famous "music of Chavannes." The whole has a soothing and steadying effect. Stop for a moment before any one of the panels, and you see infinite vistas opening before you: oceans, meadows, and boundless skies, conjured up within four marble walls.

A PORTOLAN ATLAS.

An early manuscript atlas was recently added to the treasures of the Library. On January 17, the *Boston Transcript* published an article about it, with the title "An early Glimpse of the Western World," from the pen of Dr. George P. Winship, Widener librarian at Harvard. "It is the appearance of American lands which naturally awakens the interest, and gives real importance to a portolano," he writes. "But," he asserts further, "it is necessary to distinguish between those which contain merely a world-map on which America appears, and those in which separate maps are devoted to the Western World." Of these latter, atlases which can fairly claim to possess one or more American maps, the number is exceedingly few. And of the six maps in our atlas, four represent portions of America! Mr. Winship advises his readers to see the portolano now on view in the Exhibition Room; we in turn recommend the Library people to read his article.

POE.

Edgar Allan Poe was born in Boston, January 19, 1809, on Carver Street, on the site of No. 62. To celebrate the anniversary, his first editions and autographed letters are being exhibited at the Library. The Public Library is fortunate to possess what is perhaps the largest single collection of Poe letters. In the exquisite, fastidious handwriting of the poet, these large, blue sheets have a peculiar attraction. It is extremely interesting to read them; for while the poems and tales of the poet are coldly objective in tone, the letters are most intensely personal and spontaneous, full of love and hatred, cheer and gloom. There is nothing which could surpass them in their intimacy; they reveal Poe, the man, as he lived his daily life. We may wonder: is it any satisfaction that his simple promissory notes fetch hundreds of dollars to-day, and that his first little booklet is one of the most expensive works in the English language?

SUBERCASEAUX.

Yesterday Subercaseaux was only a name, foreign and difficult of pronunciation. Not merely the public, but even critics and connoisseurs here knew hardly anything of him. To-day his name is a familiar one, and his work, "The Life of St. Francis of Assisi," is dear to thousands in Boston. The Library was glad to exhibit the fifty original water-color paintings by this Chilean artist. And the response of the public was indeed, unusually eager and enthusiastic. The beauty and poetry of the little Umbrian town, which years before made such a strong impression on the visiting artist, was revealed in these delightful little paintings. Umbria of the thirteenth century, with its hills and valleys, crags and fields, is here. The well-known scenes are depicted with a deep spirituality, and every stroke is permeated with the ineffable sweetness of the Franciscan legend.

CHRISTMAS AT THE BRANCHES.

ALLSTON: During the Christmas season special Christmas books were placed in a convenient section, ready for circulation, when called for. Bunches of holly were on all the tables. A Christmas story, in a small leaflet, was given to each child.

BRIGHTON: A Christmas tree party was one of the delightful events of the holiday season. Fifty children were entertained by Miss Bessie Doherty, of the Central Library, who told several good stories; presents were exchanged and candy distributed.

CHARLESTOWN: The Christmas tree at Charlestown Branch was no miniature affair, but tall and graceful, and as amply proportioned as one could desire. When the tree was first set up everyone declared that it was handsome enough, almost, without any decorations; but what would be a Christmas tree without those nice glass balls, gleaming icicles and a star? It was amusing to hear the comments of the children as they came in. "Gee, lookit the Chris'mas tree! Ain't it swell! Say, Missus," to the librarian, "'re you goin' to have a 'time' here for the kids? When is it?" etc., etc.

CITY POINT: The library was cheerfully decorated with holly paper. There was also a decorative poster featuring a Christmas message, and, correlated with seasonable decorations, some very lovely pictures mounted in connection with the poster.

CODMAN SQUARE: On the Tuesday evening before Christmas the regular staff and the extra service of the Branch had a Christmas Party. The party opened with two violin solos by Miss olden. After that came games, The first stunt offered by the entertainment committee was the drawing, while blind-folded, of a Christmas goose. The results were marvelous—the best drawing looked like an enlarged wren and the poorest like a Grecian urn! Among the other games was a peanut hunt. One of the staff told a Christmas story.

HYDE PARK: Here two small trees were provided, prettily decorated with bright colored candles and ornaments. One was in the children's room and the other back of the counter in the delivery room. In the reading room, at the base of the columns, were placed branches of pine and these were connected with festoons of red. A large wreath was put in the window at the entrance to the delivery room.

JAMAICA PLAIN: The open fireplace and brightly decorated shelf above, in the children's room, formed a fitting background for the Christmas tree which the Librarian and staff dressed gaily. Very attractive it proved to the little ones, especially when a pair of bright eyes discovered a red stocking hung in its proper place near by. Laurel wreaths at the windows, another under the clock on the balcony, and a large Christmas bell, with a suggestive bit of greenery attached, added to the festive appearance.

JEFFRIES POINT: The room was prettily decorated with gaily colored Christmas pictures, Christmas paper, holly and poinsettias. Three days before Christmas the tree was put up and its colorful, shimmering appearance added much to the festiveness of the room. The solemn task of decorating the tree in its brightly colored ornaments, icicles and "snow" was quickly accomplished by the help of many eager little hands. The children were very proud of the "library tree."

LOWER MILLS: Little, but oh my! The "children's room," the part near the street, had around the walls a frieze picturing Santa in his sleigh as he cheered his eight tiny reindeer on to visit the homes of the little children in the neighborhood. A kind lady donated a small tree; with a silver star at the top, and with added tinsel it was very pretty. The branch is fortunate in the possession of a fireplace, where the traditional stockings were hung up and dolls looked forth from their tops.

MT. BOWDOIN: On Monday evening, December 22, the staff had a party after closing time. Miss Beatrice Flanagan, former librarian, was guest of honor. The 25-cent grab, to which all the staff contributed, proved a great success. Gifts were exchanged and refreshments served; all in all—a gay time. The windows were nicely decorated during the holidays. Miss Henry made two attractive posters.

MT. PLEASANT: The windows of the Branch were very prettily decorated with red candles and gold stars, which gave a very cheery aspect to the room. The candles and stars were presented to Miss Reid by the children of the second grade of the Samuel Mason School.

PARKER HILL: Real Christmas spirit permeated the atmosphere at Parker Hill Branch during the Yuletide. There was a wonderful Christmas Crib, placed in our window. The figures were furnished and designed by the Community Service Club, and loaned to the library. The red and gold manger, in which lay the Christ Child, was placed upon a bed of straw, and gathered around in prayerful adoration were Mary, Joseph, the three Shepherds, and the Three Wise Men; a tiny bulb, hidden beneath the crib, shed a soft and steady glow over all.

ROSLINDALE: In the childrens' room a small tree was erected and decorated, with Santa Claus at the top. The staff had a Christmas grab, each one contributing a present. The packages were numbered and the corresponding numbers put in a box and drawn. There was great merriment; all were delighted with what they drew.

ROXBURY CROSSING: Laurel wreaths were hung in the four large windows. In one window was displayed the arrival of Santa Claus, with his sleigh and reindeer, at the small house in the pine grove; in the other, Santa was shown just climbing into the chimney, with his pack on his back.

SOUTH BOSTON: Almost two weeks before Christmas Santa Claus made his appearance in South Boston. A

center window was used to represent a house-top with a jolly Santa going down the chimney with his pack against a background of blue sky that was splendid with stars, the dipper and a new moon. A few days before Christmas, a fine tree was presented to us by Little House, and several wreaths came later, from this generous friend of the library. On December 23, after the day's work was over, the staff had a party in the children's room. Refreshments were served, after which each one drew from a chimney centerpiece. The packages called forth much laughter.

SOUTH END: Laurel wreaths and a beautiful tree heralded, days before, the coming of Christmas. Monday evening Miss Sheridan gave a party to the staff. In a corner of the children's room the junior assistants set up the Christmas tree with all its shining, glittering ornaments. Refreshments were served and each member of the staff received a gift, which seemed to be "just what she wanted".

WEST END: The branch held an informal Christmas party on the evening of December 23, to which all the 1924 ex-members of the staff were also invited. The feature of the evening was an interpretive dance, showing how a gentleman and a lady danced fifty years ago, and how a man and woman dance today. The participants were none other than two of the staff members. A grab, dancing, and greetings in the form of limericks to suit each person present were also part of the program. Refreshments were plenty.

WEST ROXBURY: Each doorway was festooned with red and green ropes from which hung gay bells. Artistic bouquets of red alderberries and bayberries graced the desks, the gifts of some of our good patrons. The Christmas tree, placed on a table in the Children's room, was gorgeous! Miss Gertrude Crandall showed how to make chains from bright colored book covers. This, plus real golden bells (invented also) and a wonderful star made the tree what it was: an object of beauty.

NEWS NOTES.

On Wednesday evening, January 28, at 7:45, the Staff Club will hold a "Reception to New Members" in the Staff Class Room. Every member come and meet every other member!

The Massachusetts Library Club will hold its winter meeting at the Gardner Auditorium in the State House, Boston, on Thursday, January 29. The program is of unusual interest, with special stress on the work of the American Merchant Marine Library Association. There will be addresses by Admiral Sims and by Mrs. sociation, an address of welcome by Governor Fuller, and a reading by Professor Copeland, of Harvard. In the evening there will be a reception and social "get-together" at the State Library.

Donald D. Walsh, of the Catalogue Room, has been elected to the Harvard Chapter of the Phi Beta Kappa Society, and received his key at the December initiation. Mr. Walsh, who is a member of the Senior Class, is taking his degree in Romance Languages, and is devoting part of his time to recataloguing old books for the Library.

The Second Series of the lectures of Mr. Richard G. Appel on the Symphony Concerts began Monday, January 19. These lectures are intended for all those who wish to gain a keener enjoyment and appreciation of symphonic music, as well as for teachers and students of music. Among those who will assist in the Second Series are: Mr. Malcolm Lang, Prof. John P. Marshall, Prof. William C. Heilman, Mr. Edward Ballantine and Mr. Thompson Stone. The lectures, as is well-known, are given under the auspices of the Massachusetts Division of University Extension; the enrollment fee for the twelve lectures is one dollar. (For credit, one additional dollar.) We hope the public will respond with the same enthusiastic interest as at the First Series.

The "Boston Year Book, 1923-1924," just published by the City of Boston, contains an interesting account of the Library, covering seven pages, and accompanied by two illustrations.

On December 8th and 10th Mr. Zoltán Haraszti gave two lectures at Boston University College of Business Administration on "Fifteenth Century Printers," and on "The history of writing."

The engagement of Miss Eleanor Schlafer, of the Issue Department, to Mr. Benjamin Forman of Allston was announced on Christmas Day. Mr. Forman, who is a graduate of the Boston University Law School, is in the garage business in Boston. No date has as yet been set for the wedding.

The engagement has also been announced of Miss Minna Steinberg, a member of the Catalogue Department, to Dr. Max Bennett. Dr. Bennett is a resident of Chelsea, where he has an extensive private practice. He was formerly assistant executive officer at the Psychopathic Hospital and is now on the staff of the Boston Dispensary.

In its Christmas issue the *Boston Globe* published an article by Mr. Zoltán Haraszti on the Christmas customs in Hungary.

Miss Mabel Benjamin, youngest daughter of our genial mentor and uniformed guardian of the law, is doing some very creditable work in the musical world. She was heard over the radio from Station WNAC in a very pleasing concert with Norman Arnold on Saturday evening, January 3. The following day she sang with Harold Tripp at the Old South Forum, preceding the lecture of Judge Jean Norris of New York. Her voice is of excellent range for a soprano and has a sweetness, power, and technical development which — we hope — will command notice as she becomes more generally known.

Miss Miriam T. Murphy, of the Catalogue Department, was awarded a gold safety razor by the Gillette Company for submitting one of the three best reviews of the performance of the Gillette Safety Razor Concert Orchestra at its first radio concert. The concert was broadcasted December 11, 1924, from Station WEEI. The concerts are broadcasted on Thursday evenings, and similar prizes are offered every week for the three best reviews of each concert.

Not the least interesting among the various activities in which members of the staff are engaged is the work of Mr. G. B. Tewksbury, of the Catalogue Room, as organist and director of the boy choir at St. John's Episcopal Church, Jamaica Plain. Mr. Tewksbury was responsible for the Christmas music in that church, and his program was very well received.

A group of boys from the St. Andrew School (55 Pilgrim Road) visited the Barton Room before their Christmas vacation. They came with Miss Alice R. Laughlin, their teacher, in order to see our illuminated manuscripts. The young scholars, ranging from ten to twelve years in age, devoted unstinted attention to the study of the ancient parchments. The long French scroll, relating the story of the world from its beginning to the last of the Crusades, especially won their appreciation. "This was written before the discovery of America," remarked the attendant, and his words elicited the murmur of general surprise. "Do you know, Jack, in what year America was discovered?" now inquired Miss Laughlin. "Yes, Ma'am," was Jack's quick repartee; and the correct date offered demonstrated at once his sound scholarship.

It was a pleasure indeed to see the excited interest of these youngsters as they listened to the explanations, eager to know "all".

Miss Sarah W. Griggs, assistant at the Fellowes Athenaeum Branch, retired on December 31. She entered the service of the Library in 1886.

Prior to that she had been librarian of the Roxbury Athenaeum.

Miss Ellen Florence Potts and Miss Zenobia Felton, of the Bindery Department, have also retired. Miss Potts, who was fore-woman, has been for nearly thirty-three years in the service of the Library. She is in ill-health and needs complete rest. Miss Felton resigned under the provisions of the Boston Retirement Act.

LIBRARY LIFE wishes complete recovery to Miss Potts and happiness to all three of them.

FROM THE BRANCHES.

At the last book review meeting held at the Brighton Branch, Mrs. Margaret Cummings Mason, current events lecturer, spoke of the more important books of the past year. She reviewed several books by English authors, all dealing with after-war conditions, spoke of the recent American novels, and of the new biographies of literary value. About forty women attended the meeting.

The next review will be held on January 22. Mr. Whiting of the *Boston Herald*, will speak on President Coolidge.

One of the book cases at the Charlestown Branch is barred by an iron grill. A little boy asked the assistant: "Please, teacher, kin I have Robin Hool out-of-prison?" After repeating his request for the third time he said: "It's over there in that cage."

Some splendid posters are on exhibition now at the Roslindale Branch. They represent children's books, such as the Twins, Brownies, and Sunbonnet Babies. These posters attract considerable attention, and the local paper (*The Roslindale News*) published a notice about them. They were lent through the courtesy of Miss McCarthy, Branch Department.

The Girl Scouts are a great help at the West Roxbury Branch. Since September Troops 1 and 2 have cut 3414 pictures from the *Geographic Magazine*, and they are now ready for mounting.

THE OUTSIDE WIRE.

WHAT OTHER LIBRARIES ARE DOING AND SAYING.

"A fair exchange is no robbery"

When, in the course of Library events, it seems advisable for the editorial board to establish an Exchange Department, a correspondence-school knowledge of readers' psychology leads them to make known the reasons which impel them to do so. We hold these truths to be demonstrable, if not self-evident:

(1) That the knowledge that a certain amount of material will be available each month leads to repose of mind and higher editorial efficiency.

(2) That the concentration of related matter under one head enables the gentle, timid, or pre-occupied reader to skip the whole section without fear of losing anything, thus reducing the intellectual overhead, and increasing his net revenue per ton-mile (or its literary equivalent).

(3) That a knowledge of what other librarians are doing and saying is of interest to some small number, at least, of our readers.

(4) That a proper spirit of give and take will help to promote good feeling and co-operation among the various staff bulletins themselves.

Having thus briefly stated our Declaration of Interdependence, we nail our editorial shirt-tail to the mast, and await what onslaught, if any, our action may provoke.

* * *

In beginning a column of exchanges, we are at once struck by the large number of libraries which have, in one form or another, adopted the idea of the staff bulletin as a real contribution to *esprit de corps*. That all library workers have a common bond, and that that bond is strengthened and transmuted into a professional spirit of public service by such means as a staff paper provides, seems to be universally the opinion at the present time. Thus, from the single-page, mimeographed "Shock Absorber"—official organ of the Special Libraries Association of Boston, and probably the youngest of

library sheets (Vol. I, No. 1, November 24th, 1924)—to the multifold publications of our friends in the Cleveland Public Library, librarians everywhere seem bent on establishing, by hook or by crook, their own little house organs. One and all, LIBRARY LIFE greets them, and wishes them every success; for the youthful and tender we would proffer the milk of human kindness, and for those well-established, red-blooded, meaty comment. To deal flowers and brickbats with even-handed justice shall be our modest endeavor. And, as the French say of Reparations, we shall be only too happy to receive payments in kind.

* * *

Q. S. T.

Yet another point which the establishment of an exchange column brings up, and one which gives us much cause for regret, is the sadly incomplete state of our files. It will of course be our immediate care to remedy this deficiency in so far as possible, but to all our fellow librarians, wherever situated, we issue a cordial invitation to exchange. Let this be a "Q. S. T." message, which—in the language of pre-broadcasting days—means "a general call to all stations."

"Finally, bred'ren and sisteren, we comes to de benediction"—that is to say, to the exchanges. Owing to the amount of space unavoidably devoted to stating the scope and intent of our venture, we shall be forced to confine ourselves to a few of those perennial quotations which "are as good one time as another"—and never better than now!

* * *

From Cleveland comes the following; somehow we feel as if "it might have happened in Boston."

His chin was just level with the receiving desk, and over it he regarded us with serious blue eyes, and shyly quavered, as he proffered

an expired library card, "Where do I go when I expire?"

*

A quiet, dignified man approaches whose manner suggests standards if not classics. While the assistant is wondering whether it will be a Thackeray or a Trollope he bends down and asks, "Have you a hammer?" The amazed assistant stammers, "Why yes, a small one." "May I borrow it, please? I have on new shoes and a nail is disturbing my peace of mind."

*

Obliging Assistant: "Do you want anything?"

Astonished Visitor: "No, do you?"

*

A youth asked for the cause and cure for capital and labor. Desk 4 volunteered that Christmas shopping will cure capital but only death can cure labor.

*

Stylishly dressed flapper to assistant: "I'd like 'The sheik', the sequel to 'Main Street', you know."

*

A young woman returning two books leaned over the desk and presenting a card, informed us in a most chatty, confidential way, "This man wants to quit the library—he died yesterday."

* * *

"The Page," paper of the New York Public Library Staff Association, once printed the following. We can do no better than to follow its example.

A REFERENCE DEPARTMENT CATALOGUER.

(Epitaph by our own Spoon River Anthologist.)

Year after year we hoped
(I and my colleagues)
And hoped, and hoped,
That one day we might put one over
On the Library of Congress.
One day —
(Blessed day!)
It came true!
We found a book with four blank fly-leaves.
The L. C. card said it had only three!
Oh, triumph!
Oh, joy!
Oh, lovely!
Unluckily, my happiness was so great that
I burst a blood-vessel, and now
I lie here in the grave, wishing I could
Get up and collate the autumn leaves.

(The Page, New York P. L.)

* * *

We showed the above palpitating cross-section of Life (the metaphors are mixed, but so are we) to the Local Spoon River Anthologist—no town is without one—whereupon, in a paroxysm of poetic frenzy, he seized his pen

and dashed off the following at one sitting:

LETTA B—.

I was a runner in the Stacks
And I loved detective stories.
One day
While I was chasing a slip
My chum
Pinched my book on me
Just at the most exciting place!
So
I hit her over the head with a chair
Hard.
They put me in the Reformatory, where
I died soon after of a broken heart.

*

HIRAM FELL.

I used to be janitor
At the Central Library.
Every icy day
For years
I put ashes all over the front steps
With great care.
Then once
When I was overhauling the elevator
I touched a live wire.
They said
The ashes on my rubber heels
"Grounded" me.
Anyhow
I did my duty
And
They gave my widow a pension.

*

O. S. O. BRIGHT.

Once I was Reference Librarian.
I answered
All kinds of questions
And did it very well.
One evening
A little old lady
Asked me
What was
"A word in four letters meaning
'Idiot'."
Something snapped in my brain.
I went blind.
Later
In despair
I shot myself.
My wife thinks
I had been overworking.
But I know
It was Cousin Charlie's
Synthetic gin.

[At this point, knowing that verse comes from light heads and empty stomachs, we decided, in desperation, to take the Anthologist out to dinner. Those who approve of this heroic measure will please make checks payable to the editor. Yes, the poet did *not* pay for the meal.]

W. R. B.

A SCHOLAR'S THRILLER.

THE PURPLE MIST. By G. E. Locke. Boston. Page & Co. 1924. \$1.90.

Things seem to go by contrast in this strange world — Miss Gladys E. Locke, whose days are spent in the calm, scholarly atmosphere of the Catalogue Department has lately published "The Purple Mist," a novel with a thrill to every page; where mystery jostles murder; where a handful of courageous aristocrats foil hordes of assorted villains.

To Craighaven Castle, set on a cliff above the sea and at the edge of Exmoor, comes Nurse Wyvern to take care of a shell-shocked officer, the husband of her childhood friend, the lovely Venitia Maud. At Craighaven is a small house-party, all titled, all terrorized by a mysterious purple mist which rises from the moor, as a signal that the phantom coach will pass that night. Three villagers who attempted to intercept the coach have inexplicably disappeared.

Nurse Wyvern is summoned to Major Audley's room and meets his physician, Dr. Blakesley, who appears to have some strange power over his patient. As a Hindu servant attempts to close the blinds, up to the very windows of the castle sweeps the uncanny purple mist.

On the night of the county ball, held at the castle, the mist rises again. This time it is a prelude to the murder of Major Audley, the disappearance of pretty, silly Lady Clarice Ponsonby, and an apoplectic stroke of her famous elderly husband.

Among those suspected of the murder is a beautiful gypsy who is infatuated with Doctor Blakesley. Nurse Wyvern and Zillah, the gypsy, meet again when the former attempts to explore Dr. Blakesley's mysterious nursing home on the moors.

Thereafter the thrills increase. When everything is explained, the reader—who has been upon his toes for several chapters—finds that he has guessed wrong in every instance.

Let Isabel Ostrander and Carolyn Wells look to their laurels. Already

some of them have been wrested from these feminine writers of mystery stories by this able, keen-penned cataloguer of the Boston Public Library.

M. E. P.

ANNUAL ASSOCIATION PARTY.

The Annual Whist and Dancing Party of the Benefit Association will be held at the Chateau Dansant, 353 Huntington Ave., on Friday evening, January 23. Jack Barry and his Jazz Band, which was so popular at the Copley Club Dance, will supply the music. Special dances have been arranged with many attractive dance favors. Whist will start at 8.30, and a large number of desirable prizes are awaiting the winners.

Many prominent guests have been invited, including His Honor, Mayor James M. Curley, and the members of the Board of Trustees. It is hoped that every member of the Association will attend with his family and friends.

The committee for this entertainment consists of Mr. William F. A. Graham, Chairman, Miss Florence Sullivan, Treasurer, Miss Mary McDonough, Secretary, Miss Mary E. Prim, Miss Alice Kernan, and Mr. Emil Hoffman.

Among the duties of the Benefit Association's representatives in the departments and branches of the Library, as provided by the new constitution, is that of notifying the Secretary of the return to work of members who have been sick. It is important that the Association know at once when one of its members is ill, in order that its Relief Committee may investigate the case promptly, and that payment of benefits may begin without delay. But it is of equal importance that notice be sent in when the member returns to work, that the Treasurer may know the amount of benefits due, and may make his payments accordingly. The new system of representatives is working finely, and to the advantage of all concerned. If these representatives will likewise observe this last point, their service will be complete.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume IV, No. 5

February 15, 1925

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
THE ECLIPSE AT THE LIBRARY . . .	49	EDITORIALS	56
VALENTINES	50	ARTS OF THE STAGE	57
A GOOD TIME	51	THE LIBRARY AND THE OPERA SEASON . .	57
LADIES, THE PRESIDENT	51	MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB . . .	58
BY PHONOGRAPH	52	BRANCH NEWS	59
A FAREWELL TRIBUTE	53	NEWS NOTES	61
GREEK SCULPTURE	53	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	61
OBSERVATIONS ON THE ECLIPSE OF THE		STAFF CLUB	62
SUN, JUNE 16, 1806	54	THE OUTSIDE WIRE	63
SNARING BIRD-SONGS	55	PUBLICATIONS	64

THE ECLIPSE AT THE LIBRARY.

"Going to close the Library to-morrow morning."

"That so?"

"'Count of the 'clipse. A notice just came down from the office about it. We close from nine to ten."

"And Saturday's a half day. By George, I wish I'd thought about it in time. I'd have gone down to New Haven."

This was the day before the solar eclipse of January 24, 1925, and we of the Boston Public Library were making ready for the spectacle of the century. Making ready, that is, in such fashion as we could, for as we were not in the totality belt, we should not look upon the famed corona, nor see blackness cover the light of day. Ours was to be the lot of the "other half," the submerged tenth, or whatever name it is that signifies those unfortunates who are forever on the cold outside; in other words, we were to play the part of the "little pig" that "stayed at home."

Not for us was totality, but what about that ninety-nine per cent which was to be Boston's share? Ninety-nine per cent of a celestial phenomenon was not so bad! Just short of

complete darkness! Were there not special police detailed for the banks? Did we not hear of pickpockets, of dark deeds that might be perpetrated in the confusion of dimness? Business houses were closing. The Library would not open till ten o'clock on the morning of the day. The Benefit Association was to give its annual dance on the night before. We were preparing for all but one per cent of the eclipse.

By way of practice on Friday afternoon, we looked at the electric light bulbs in our ceiling through every pair of smoked eye-glasses that was offered to us, as well as through innumerable strips of used camera film. "This is the last piece to be had from Lloyd's" said some one, holding out a bit of film measuring two inches by one, "You can get more after five o'clock, though."

"The best way to see it, I read in the *Transcript*, is to take a sheet of white paper with one pin hole in it —"

"One pin hole?"

"Yes, one hole the size of a pin."

"Ought to be more than that. The whole paper should be covered with pin holes —"

"I never heard so —"

"Well, the account I read —"

In the darkness that was night some of us went home and forgot all about the eclipse and some of us went

up to the Chateau Dansant and danced till twelve o'clock with the Benefit Association.

Next morning, when the time came, there was the sun looking like a crescent moon with a disk of shadow moving centrally across it. And the disk of shadow grew and the crescent diminished and still there was daylight. The shadows on the ground were a little queer, perhaps, yes, decidedly queer, the more one looked at them, but it was not a bit dark. We climbed up to the deserted Delivery Room where the window looks out at the sky over the roof of the Pierce Building. The shadow disk was moving off. On the other side of it, the sun was coming up.

Some one came bumping in with a suit case. "Oh, and how was the dance?"

"Solar energy, did you say?"

"Wouldn't you like this piece of smoked glass?"

"The theory of fuel conservation?"

"Why, it's nearly a quarter to ten now!"

"Miss Jordan says she saw a star. But that was in Jamaica Plain."

"Yes, it was a very nice party, one of the best we've ever had."

"If we can still have daylight when nine-tenths of the sun is covered, doesn't that prove —?"

"My sister took the second prize!"

The clock struck ten and the public rolled in. We went back to our posts. The sun cleared. Most of the ladies in the Library thought that it was a "good eclipse." But the men seemed to agree with the verdict that came from high officialdom that the eclipse, as a spectacle, was much overrated.

C. H.

VALENTINES.

The 14th day of February was evidently no Valentine's Day for its founder, Saint Valentine. We know next to nothing of his history. One fact alone stands out, that during the reign of Claudius II., probably in the year 270, he suffered a martyrdom of exceptional cruelty — to be hailed through the ages, as Lamb hails him,

with hearty slap on the shoulder, "a sort of grandfather Cupid, grown old, rubicund and jolly, Old Bishop Valentine!"

Some of the early English writers have written lovely Valentine verses. Michael Drayton's "To His Valentine" is a beautiful lyric. Ophelia's song in Shakespeare's "Hamlet" is especially well known.

The Barton Library has some interesting early books on Valentines. Most of them were printed in the late 18th or early 19th century, each with a colored plate representing a scene with Cupid reigning supreme. Some of the books have verses addressed "To a Lady", followed by an "Answer of Compliance" or an "Answer of Rejection."

The "School of Love or Original and Comic Valentine Writer for Trades, Professions, etc.", printed in 179—, is the earliest Valentine book that we have. It offers verses like this:

(From a Musician) —

I deal in harmony, sweet maid,
To play soft love-notes is my trade.
Your dulcet voice has won my heart,
Sweet unison, I pray impart.
O do not doom me to despair,
Lest I on cord shall float on air;
O say, Piano, you are mine,
Upon the morn of valentine.

In "The Tradesman's new Valentine Writer for the Present Year" each trade has its special verse, followed by a favorable or unfavorable answer. The one "From a Baker" promises the receiver a good supply of the "staff of life."

(From a Baker) —

My fair, whose skin is soft and white,
Like dough to touch, like flour to sight,
Let me entreat your kind regard,
Nor be, like crust much baked, too hard.
Consent, my love, to be my wife;
You ne'er shall want for bread through life.
Tell me you're willing, and my love,
I'll strive through life to constant prove.

(Answer) —

Sweet as your rolls is every line,
Nice as your cakes, my Valentine:
So I'll consent for life to trust ye,
But hope you never will be crusty.

Those of the present day, who are inclined to think that a valentine must be either coarse or "mushy", might do worse than spend an hour with old valentine-books in the Barton. M. L. C.

A GOOD TIME.

This year the annual whist and dancing party of the Benefit Association was sandwiched in between the coldest day of the season and the eclipse. Nevertheless, on Friday evening, January 23, there was a record attendance at the Chateau and no fatalities from pneumonia have been reported.

The party was noticeably a "family affair," with very few outsiders present. Even the remotest branch sent its quota, and apparently everybody under twenty-one, connected with the extra service, was present. The extreme youth of the orchestra may have had something to do with this, for Mr. Jack Barry and his Jazz Band are still attending school, still tireless, willing to oblige with snappy music so long as there is a couple remaining on the floor.

However, many who came determined to dance all evening, weakened when they got sight of the grand and glittering display of whist prizes. The branches and all the departments at Central had responded magnificently to the committee's plea. Pictures, china, linen, fountain pens — it was like seeing the presents of a fortunate bride. Best of all, there were almost no duplicates, and there seem to have no heartburnings at the end of the game. Within five minutes all the players were seated and members of the committee were dashing about looking for a spare corner in which to wedge "just one more table." The fortunate ones, who had first choice among the thirty-nine prizes, were Miss M. Fortier, Miss Sinclair, Mr. Muller, Mrs. Ross, Miss Watson, Miss K. Hampe, Miss A. Manning, Miss Tint, and Mrs. McGee.

Meanwhile the dance floor was crowded. Central and the branches, department heads and extras, were all renewing their acquaintance to the wheedling notes of "All Alone." There were two jolly novelty dances, in which the couple who paused on the lucky "spot" when the orchestra ceased playing received, one a gold piece, the other a box of candy. The first "spot"

was selected by Mr. Belden and Miss Jordan, who presented the gold pieces to the winning couple; the second "spot" was picked by Mr. Chase and Miss McDonough.

After ten the gathering was augmented by many of the evening force, a little bit late, but eager for the fun. When these arrived the grand march began, led by Mr. J. Philip Mooers, of the Bindery, President of the Benefit Association. He was accompanied by his charming sister, Mrs. Harry Beardon, of Tennessee. Mr. Belden and "our own" Mary McDonough, were next in line, followed by Mr. Chase, Vice-President of the Association, with Miss Brackett, of the Brighton Branch. The favors distributed to the ladies were elaborate fancy combs; the gentlemen received trick hats of all sorts. Grave members of the staff passed by wearing enchanting little flat hats, Chinese hats, Scotch bonnets, or Yankee Doodle tricorns. If a stray bit of ice remained, the grand march broke it!

The 1925 party established a record for good fun packed into a single evening that succeeding years will find it hard to beat.

Medals for the Entertainment Committee will be received at the Central Library, any day between nine and five, by Mr. William Fenton Ambrose Graham, Chairman.

M. E. P.

LADIES, THE PRESIDENT!

A large and interested group of listeners assembled in the Reference Room of the Brighton Branch Library on the afternoon of January 22d, to hear Mr. E. E. Whiting, of the *Boston Herald*, speak on President Coolidge. Miss Brackett, the Librarian, is to be congratulated on securing for her readers this opportunity to gain an inside glimpse of the personality of the President, from his biographer, who has long known him intimately. The following paragraphs give a few of the high lights of Mr. Whiting's pleasantly informal talk:

"Mr. Coolidge is the most interesting figure in the political world at the

present time. He is going to do very great things. We who are admirers of Mr. Coolidge look forward to four years of prosperity and conservatism.

"It is said that Mr. Coolidge was made famous by the Boston Police Strike. This is an absurd statement. He was elected Governor of the State of Massachusetts, and no one is elected to that office unless he has the goods. So far as I recollect, there has been no conspicuous record, in the long line of our Governors, of lack of character. When Mr. Coolidge became Governor of Massachusetts he had already been stamped with public approval. One point, however, I will emphasize regarding the strike: Mr. Coolidge translated into words of one syllable the issue raised by that situation. He stated the issue, which was not localized in Boston, but was national. It was what he said about the strike, his presentation of it, which made him celebrated. That is the key of his greatness. He possesses ability to pluck from the atmosphere about him, thoughts which are in the public mind, and to put them into form and crystallize them so that the country can see them.

"What is the basis of his character? Why this reticence of speech, this silence? Well, Mr. Coolidge inherited the normal characteristics of a small New England town. Plymouth was a little bit of a country town, having a union church, a small store, a cheese factory (there is a cheese factory in almost every small town in Vermont), a schoolhouse and perhaps half a dozen houses. There was one little dirt road running through the central part. Those were the conditions of his up-bringing.

"To my knowledge Mr. Coolidge has never had a speech written for him. He writes his own on small-sized pieces of paper. They are written very badly, erased, scratched out and revised a great deal. It is painstaking work. A fact pointing to his writing his own speeches is that he used the same sort of language, the same short sentences, and had the same views of public affairs twenty years ago as he has now.

"Mr. Coolidge is a perfect example of a New England type. Here is a characteristic story. One of his friends undertook to draw from Mr. Coolidge a statement which might be used before the Republican National Convention. He drafted a telegram thus: 'Your friends here all send their best wishes and want to know if you are a candidate. What shall I tell them?' The reply was this: 'Thank my friends and tell them the truth.'

"One thing he does not like is flattery. A gentleman once said to him, 'I want to shake the hand of a great American!' Mr. Coolidge extended his hand and said, 'There it is. Goodnight!' "

D. E. H.

BY PHONOGRAPH.

The visit of Igor Stravinsky, the distinguished Russian composer, to this country and his appearance as soloist with the Boston Symphony Orchestra led to an unusual event in the Library — a Phonograph Concert. Records have frequently been used in the course of lectures on the Symphony Concerts, but rarely has this resource been employed to such an advantage as on January 21, when records of two of Stravinsky's suites, which had kindly been loaned by the Victor Talking Machine Company, were played, to the instruction and evident enjoyment of a large group of listeners. Earlier in the same week, Professor Hill, of Harvard, had given a masterly résumé of Stravinsky's position in contemporary music, and Mr. Appel's stereopticon pictures only increased the curiosity to hear some examples of the composer's works. After a few explanatory remarks, Mr. Appel let the music speak for itself, and, since the concert at which Stravinsky played, several persons have remarked on the way in which this introduction to his music had added to their enjoyment. The records gave forth good volume, and the characteristics of the different instruments were reproduced successfully. This experiment opens a vista upon a possible new field of activity for the Library.

R. G. A.

A FAREWELL TRIBUTE.

A few minutes after the opening of the Library on the morning of Saturday, January 31, a goodly number of the staff gathered in the West Gallery to bid farewell to Mr. Rowlands. They had not forgotten that it was his last day of service in the institution to which he had given twenty-four years of devoted and splendid work.

The chief of the Special Libraries Department made a brief address in which he paid tribute to Mr. Rowlands' genial and kindly spirit, his indefatigable industry and whole-hearted devotion to his work, his expert knowledge and impeccable taste in art, and his wonderful loyalty to the institution which he served. The speaker then alluded to the difficulty of choosing a gift for one with Mr. Rowlands' highly developed artistic sensibilities. They had found, however, one object that the most fastidious connoisseurs could contemplate with some pleasure — the gold coinage of our country. If Mr. Rowlands' fellow-workers had had pocket-books as full as their hearts, they would have imitated those Oriental potentates who reward their faithful servants with their weight in gold — a sum which, the speaker thought, was probably not greater than that which the Library owed Mr. Rowlands for his many years of unselfish and unstinted service.

Mr. Chase was introduced as a former chief of the department and paid an eloquent tribute to Mr. Rowlands' personality and work. Mr. Chase spoke of the large number of people who had come to rely upon Mr. Rowlands' expert knowledge in art matters and of the kindly and cheerful way in which Mr. Rowlands placed his unusual knowledge at the disposal of all classes of readers who sought his help. The speaker congratulated Fenway Court upon the acquisition of a man with Mr. Rowlands' knowledge and experience. What the Library had lost the Gardner Museum would gain.

Mr. Blaisdell, as the *doyen* of the staff, made the presentation, after a brief introduction in which he empha-

sized the great personal loss which he and many others felt in Mr. Rowlands' retirement.

Mr. Blaisdell then drew from his pocket an object which on the outside looked like a gold cigar case, but, which when opened, disclosed a velvet lining and five symmetrically arranged twenty-dollar gold pieces.

Hearty applause greeted the beloved recipient when he rose to take and acknowledge the gift. His emotion — an emotion visibly shared by many in his audience — was so great that he could only say a few words. The assembly then dispersed, all those present shaking the hand of their old friend and wishing him happiness in his new work.

To Mr. Blaisdell and Miss Mulcahey thanks are due for the work of collecting and procuring the gift. Those in charge of the affair regret exceedingly that some of Mr. Rowlands' oldest friends failed to receive notice of the Saturday presentation. W. H. C.

GREEK SCULPTURE.

To many an eye familiar with the great examples of Greek art, appreciative of its beauty, there came a fresh revelation in the photographs of sculpture made by Professor Clarence Kennedy, of Smith College, and recently hung in the Exhibition Room. By selecting new aspects of old subjects, as well as by introducing the visitor to things recently discovered or not often photographed, he succeeds in focusing the attention on details of special beauty or expressiveness, which give one an unexpected insight into the possibilities of sculpture. Of special interest were the pictures illustrating a series of bas-reliefs which had been built into the wall of Athens erected by Themistocles in 478 B.C., after the repulse of Persia, and only just brought to light; these included a wrestling match and a game of hockey quite extraordinary in their liveliness and their modern feeling. The familiar Charioteer of Delphi became a living being in the photographs, and other old friends put on new beauties.

OBSERVATIONS

ON THE

TOTAL ECLIPSE OF THE SUN
JUNE 16, 1806

Made at Salem by NATHANIEL BOWDITCH,
A.M. et A.A.S., and now first printed
in LIBRARY LIFE.

Of course, there is nothing new under the sun. To see the sun under the moon (so completely under it that we hardly could see anything else, and the least the moon itself) was not new either. One hundred and nineteen years ago, Nathaniel Bowditch, in Salem, experienced exactly the same thing. In his "Observations on the Total Eclipse of the Sun, June 16, 1806" he accurately described the phenomenon. We quote from the original, and largely unpublished, manuscript:

The weather on the day of the eclipse was remarkably fine, not a cloud was to be seen in any part during the eclipse. The observations were made in the garden adjoining the house of Mr. Hedges in which I then lived. The magnifying power of the telescope I made use of was small but it gave distinct vision. It was the one belonging to the new theodolite I imported a few months before. Perhaps the magnifying power was between 20 and 30 times. The chronometer was an excellent one owned by Capt. Wheatland, made by P. Grimaldi, No. 239, and had been kept going above six months before, and its daily rate was found to be to lose $1\frac{3}{4}$ seconds. The regulation of it on the day of the eclipse is given on the preceding pages by which it was found to be $2'4''$ too fast for mean time. Mr. E. A. Plummer assisted me in taking the observations, he was seated near to me with the chronometer in his hand and counted the seconds, and I had in my hand a pencil and book in which I marked the time of the beginning and end of the eclipse without speaking to him or taking my eye from the telescope till I was sure of the commencement of the eclipse. Immediately after this I examined the minute shown by the chronometer and took every pains to note the observations with accuracy. I seated myself to the telescope four or five minutes before the eclipse begun and directed the instrument toward that point of the limb where the first contact was to commence. The first impression that was perceptible by me was $10^h 8' 28''$ and at two seconds after the indentation of the limb was quite perceptible. I think it not improbable that I might have observed it a few seconds sooner if my telescope had been of a greater magnifying power.

When the eclipse had increased considerably there did not appear to be a great diminution in the light and it was not till the sun was nearly covered that the darkness was very sensible. I had provided a lantern to read off the seconds of the watch but did not find it was necessary in the garden, though it was quite dark in the house. I was seated at the telescope when the eclipse began to be nearly total and at $11^h 27^m 30^s$ the sun's surface was wholly hid. The last ray of light disappeared in an instant, there could not be a mistake of a second in this phase. All this time the Phenomenon was very remarkable. The moon was seen like a black spot in the heavens surrounded by a light like that of the twilight. Several of the fixed stars were visible to the naked eye. I counted eight fixed stars, viz. Capella, Aldebaran, Sirius, Procyon, the three bright stars in the belt of the Orion, and the bright star α in its shoulder. Venus and Mars were also visible. The thermometer which at $10^h 55^m$ was 63° rose to 65° at $10^h 58^m$, and at $11^h 37^m$ was at 59° . The height of the barometer according to Mr. Pickering was $30^i 19\frac{1}{100}$. The darkness was not so great as I expected. Persons might be known at a considerable distance, but in the houses it was necessary to make use of candles.

After waiting two or three minutes I seated myself at the telescope and the first appearance of the light of the sun in the telescope was $11^h 32' 18''$, though for as much as two seconds before there had been a sensible increase of the light. At that time, $11^h 32' 18''$, the light broke forth with great splendour and thus I procured two very good observations of the beginning and end of the total darkness. This darkness was $4' 48''$ in duration, a time beyond any example in modern times.

When the eclipse was nearly at an end, I began to observe, and at $12^h 52' 46''$ the sun's limb was completely clear of the moon; I marked that time as the end of the eclipse, and considered this observation as correct as was possible. It appeared to me that there was not an uncertainty of a second.

The manuscript, bound in a small folio, with notes of other observations and essays, is kept in the Barton Room, in the Bowditch Collection, together with all the other manuscripts of the famous mathematician and navigator. The notes on the eclipse occupy the first 82 pages of the volume, embracing reports from many different places. The passage quoted above is from the introductory part of the manuscript, and in this form was never published. The "Memoirs of the American Academy of Arts and Sciences" (Vol. III., Part I., Cambridge, 1809) printed parts of the "Observations," and also an "Addition to the Memoir on the Solar Eclipse," but the printed

account differs considerably from our manuscript, not only in phraseology but also in composition.

We wonder whether these observations, made with a comparatively small telescope, have any important scientific value today. Scholars should, at any rate, take notice of the volume; it may still yield useful information.

In the neat handwriting of Bowditch, the rough pages, crowded with stacks of numbers, rules in red ink running across, and figures of half-circles and tangents and sextants sprinkled over them, cannot fail to make a curious impression. All the writings of Bowditch are entirely objective in tone, he never indulged in reminiscences. Even his log-books, written on board the "Astrea," "Henry," and "Putnam," in those seven years between 1796 and 1803 while he was sailing around the world, are lacking in personal recollections. The "Observations on the Eclipse" have much of this personal side. The writing makes us think more of Bowditch the man, than Bowditch the scholar, — and apart from its scientific merit this is what gives it value, and charm. We see him sitting in his garden which adjoined Mr. Hedges' house, lantern beside the chair, his eye in the telescope, and his pencil busily making notes in the book.

Two weeks ago . . . a hundred years ago . . . So pass the things, earthly and celestial alike. Trying to make out the fading pages, the writer finds himself in a musing mood. And he thinks also of the year 2034, when . . . oh, somebody else will chronicle the eclipse in LIBRARY LIFE. Z. H.

SNARING BIRD-SONGS.

If the object of art is to create illusion through some rare quality from the imagination of the artist, that object was achieved by Mr. Charles C. Gorst, the naturalist, when he enabled a good-sized audience in the Lecture Hall to "snare bird-songs" in a January blizzard. Before the lecture the illusive bird-voice was heard in two man-made compositions, "Dorothy," an

old English dance, and Beethoven's "Minuet." This gave one the opportunity of hearing Mr. E. B. Tewksbury of the Catalogue Department at the piano, accompanying Mr. Gorst. Mr. Tewksbury played with delicacy of touch, displaying his skill as a pianist, as well as enhancing the charm of the bird-voice.

As the lecture progressed, pictures of the birds imitated were shown. One chart represented Mr. Gorst's unique method of musical notation. Instead of trying to snare a bird-song in our musical staff, the tonality of which is too conservative for these ultra-modern though ancient musicians, he uses zig-zags and curves, with varying vowels and consonants to be uttered with lightning-like rapidity, as it seems between the teeth and lips, and mostly at a very high pitch. One song required double-stopping, and Mr. Gorst's throat and head simultaneously gave forth the harmony. An amusing feature was the demonstration of how he gets "in breath" instead of "out of breath." He whistled "Yankee Doodle" an incredible number of times, ending *fortissimo*, all with one breath.

The audience was asked to guess the identity of certain singers and three times all but failed to recognize the melodies of the common robin. Mr. Gorst imitated the proper note for making robin children mind instantly. It is his belief that birds feel emotion while they are singing, as he has studied the expression in their eyes. Attention was called to a technical feature of some songs which is unequalled in some of our finest poetry. When several varying melodies or phrases are sung in succession, corresponding to poetical lines, an occasional line will end with a few syllables of rest. This adds greatly to the beauty of the whole song.

The ending of the lecture was close to poetry and worship. It was like a real experience of being in the woods at sunset and hearing the silver spiral of the Wilson's thrush, and the hermit thrush's good-night song. Mr. Gorst's motto is "A bird in the bush is worth two in the hand!" He calls himself a silent poet.

A. E. H.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

WILLIAM R. BREWSTER	HARRY W. MATHEWS
WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM	MARION A. MCCARTHY
ZOLTÁN HARASZTI	MARY E. PRIM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY	HARRIET SWIFT
LUCIEN E. TAYLOR	

Vol. IV, No. 5. February 15, 1925

Editor-in-charge for this issue,
Dorothy E. Harvey.

QUALITY.

On the last day of January a group of some fifty employees of the Library met, almost as if by chance, in the West Gallery, to say good-bye to Walter Rowlands. No one knew who else was coming, some of his best friends were not notified at all, the whole thing was informal and spontaneous. But no one who was present will forget the occasion; it was a genuine tribute to the quality of the man who was about to leave us.

Mr. Rowlands is one who never thought of himself first and of his work second. He and his work have been one; whatever he did enlisted the whole man. No one could go to him—as thousands did—for assistance, and not feel the completeness of his response. He gave himself to all who asked; and his gift was of the finest. He cared whether the job were well or ill done; and in consequence, it was always done well.

Not all that we do for the Library can be paid for, or its value estimated. It is easy to put a price on time, on a certain amount of physical effort; but the finer service, enriched by personality and experience, is invaluable and has no price. Mr. Rowlands brought to his work a fund of knowledge and taste which had been acquired through a lifetime of unusual opportunity, giving him a unique equipment, which cannot be duplicated in the city of

Boston. This rare talent, which was his peculiar quality, was his gift to the Library and its users. The people became heir to his rich experience, and acquired the right to use it. And the Library incidentally gained distinction, as the place where one found Mr. Rowlands and the service which he could give. That distinction now passes to the Gardner Museum, to which he goes as a custodian.

It is easy to recognize quality as it passes from among us. It arouses no jealousy, no fear; we can safely be generous and say "This man was of a rarer sort." And it is good for us to do so, even as the figure retreats from our midst. May not the time come when we shall be quicker than in the past to welcome unique quality as it enters our ranks, and to greet it with due appreciation? Every one of us has something to give the public through the Library. It is well that our gifts are diverse, even that some are greater, some lesser. Well for us all if each can contribute his share with the same devotion as Mr. Rowlands, and with his freedom from pettiness, his readiness to co-operate. We are all of us the better for association with a man of his spirit.

THE BATTLE OF THE BOOKS.

In a series of pitched combats during recent weeks, the sturdiest books of the Library, specially built for hard wear, have gone down to defeat and destruction before the workers of puzzles. Manfully they have held their ground, but the hosts of the enemy were too numerous and too determined, and the stream of their reinforcements too endless, to give the dictionaries any real chance for victory. The three Bates Hall copies of Webster's "International" have been put completely out of action, and been dragged off the field, one never to return, the other two to be replaced by substitutes. Many another noble book has suffered grievously, and it will be long before all are out of hospital.

But the final victory is with the books. Each dead or wounded tome

has given life to those who have pressed so sorely upon him, and the hosts of the puzzlers have, it is safe to say, gained a new affection and respect for the dictionary. When the puzzles are forgotten, and the puzzlers have gone off to amuse themselves in fresh fields, the dictionaries will still stand, a sturdy row, ready for the next onset, waiting again to give their life-blood to those who consult them, no matter how violently. The mortality has been heavy; but the superior vitality is on the side of the books.

ARTS OF THE STAGE.

Fifty photographs loaned by the *Theatre Arts Monthly*, now on exhibition in the Fine Arts Department, give in visual form a record of what has been happening in the theatre here and abroad in the last twenty years. Several original sketches and the Library's most interesting books on stagecraft are included in the exhibit. The collection starts with the work of Craig and Appia, pioneers in modern methods of lighting and settings. From the continent there are two of the designs by Hans Strobach for the original Berlin production of "Masse-Mensch," and many photographs of the various performances directed by Max Reinhardt. They give proof of the technical advance in stagecraft and show as well the modern interest in the mechanics of the theatre and the changing point of view of one outstanding director.

The work of American designers and producers has been a saner sort of experimentation on the whole than that seen abroad. Robert Edmond Jones is represented by many photographs of his most significant productions. Norman-Bel Geddes is represented by settings for "The Miracle" and his "Project for the Theatrical Presentation of Dante's Divine Comedy." Woodman Thompson's original sketch for the second act of "The Firebrand" and John Wenger's drawings for "Ziegfield Follies" curtains are among the attractive things in the exhibit.

THE LIBRARY AND THE OPERA SEASON.

Following a precedent initiated two years ago by Mr. Appel of the Music Division, in giving a series of lectures on the Russian Opera, the Division of University Extension conducted, during January, a course of six lectures in the Library Lecture Hall covering several of the operas given by the Chicago Civic Opera Company during its Boston engagement. Professor Walter R. Spalding, of the Music Department of Harvard University, led off with a talk on "Aida" and "Louise". Professor John P. Marshall of Boston University followed with a talk on "Boris Godunoff" and "Tannhäuser". Warren Storey Smith, of the *Boston Post*, discoursed on "Romeo and Juliet," "La Bohème" and "La Tosca"; Miss Margaret Bakeman had for her subject "The Barber of Seville" and "Carmen"; Stuart Mason explained "Thaïs," "Faust" and "Madame Butterfly"; while "Rigoletto," "The Jewels of the Madonna" and "The Love of Three Kings" were handled by Fred Toye of the *Boston Traveler*. Each person enrolled in the course was furnished with mimeographed sheets containing the stories of all the operas covered.

The Library's specific contribution was a Brief Reading List (number 31) of the scores, librettos and other works relating to the operas contained in the Library. A selected number of books with the stories of the operas were reserved in the Music Room, together with a libretto of each opera, and these certainly worked over-time during the season. As usual, several players in the orchestra consulted our full scores, and no available circulating scores or librettos remained long on the shelf.

R. G. A.

A letter, with an inquiry about sword canes, recently received at the Library, was addressed: "Boston Public Library. To the Superintendent of the Ancient Sword and Firearms Department."

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

The Massachusetts Library Club held a very successful all-day mid-winter meeting on January 29th in the Gardner Auditorium of the State House, in which it was joined by the Special Libraries Association of Boston.

At the morning session, Gov. Alvan T. Fuller was introduced by Mr. Edward H. Redstone, State Librarian and President of the Club. After welcoming the librarians and speaking briefly in appreciation of the fine work done by them for the citizens of the Commonwealth, he introduced Admiral Sims as "one of the great heroes of the navy."

The contrast between the sailors of the days of sailing vessels and the seamen of the present time was vividly drawn by Admiral Sims. He said the sailor as portrayed in "Two Years before the Mast" and similar stories no longer existed. Such men were usually illiterate and often spoke no real language, but an almost unintelligible mixture of many, yet they were expert sailors. With the passing of sails and sailing vessels their skill was useless and they could not be taught the duties on a modern steam vessel. To-day the seamen of the navy and the merchant marine are young men, often from inland states, and preferably with some mechanical experience. These receive technical training to fit them for oilers, boiler-smiths, engineers, gunners, etc.

It is for such men as these that the American Merchant Marine Library Association is about to collect books to continue and extend its service in providing libraries for our ships. To show the demand for books and the appreciation of the men, Admiral Sims read brief selections from the many letters which come to the Association. One sailor offered to "send a taxi, if he could have another box of books for the ship." Their requests ranged from fiction to very technical works and a large number asked for text-books,

thus showing a desire not only for recreational reading, but for an opportunity to advance in their particular lines. As indicating the progress of the work he gave statistics of libraries distributed at the port of Boston which showed that in 1922 19,000 volumes were placed on 252 ships, in 1923, 26,000 volumes on 370 ships, and in 1924, 34,000 on 460 ships.

Mrs. Henry Howard of Cleveland, President of the Board of Trustees of the American Merchant Marine Library Association, gave a short history of the work of providing libraries for the sailors. During the war this was carried on by the A. L. A., but in 1921, when the A. L. A. was obliged to give it up, the A. M. M. L. A. was incorporated to continue the work.

The speaking was followed by a round table on cataloguing for medium-sized libraries led by Mrs. Frances R. Coe of the State Library, in the course of which many practical suggestions were brought out.

The afternoon session opened with an address by Mr. Daniel N. Handy, President of the Special Libraries Association on the "Relation of Special to Public Libraries." He gave a comprehensive account of the development of the Special Library movement, and showed the interdependence of the two types of institution, paying a warm tribute to the helpfulness of the Boston Public Library to all the special librarians of the city, who use the Library as a chief resource, often without even feeling that thanks are called for. Professor Charles T. Copeland, of Harvard, followed with a delightful paper on Dickens as an introduction to readings from Dickens and Kipling.

Dinner was served at the Twentieth Century Club at 6 p. m. to 107 members of the two associations. In the evening Mr. and Mrs. John J. Cronan told stories at the State Library, and a social hour, with a few games, finished the day's program. E. M. T.

The Staff Club is greatly indebted to Mr. James Kelley for his generosity in providing beautiful potted plants for its meetings.

BRANCH NEWS.

An examination was given January 10, 1925, for the position of Second Assistant in the Branch System.

Friday evening, February 6, a party of seventeen Branch librarians and the Supervisor of Branches attended the opera, "The Barber of Seville," by Rossini. Everybody enjoyed a very pleasant evening and hopes another theatre party will be planned.

Mrs. Josiah H. Quincy, of West Roxbury, repeated her book review on "Recent Drama," which she gave at the West Roxbury Branch January 20, at the Meeting of Branch Librarians on February 11.

The following note was received in the office of the Supervisor of Branches: "On account of having inflammation of the throat as a result of working in yesterday's (January 27) storm, I am sorry to say that I won't be able to work until I feel able."

"P. S. I may decide not to work at all."

ALLSTON: Purple slips have been helpful in supplying books. Through their use we've been able to secure most of the books asked for.

ANDREW SQUARE: Lighting fixtures have been placed at Andrew Square in the windows. The resulting brilliant illumination attracts the attention of those leaving the subway at Andrew Square. The Branch has a new collection of Polish books. A Polish paper has been publishing a series of articles on the benefits of the Library.

BOYLSTON STATION points out the fact that they do not run a country store despite the heater in the middle of the room, nor a "Sewing Circle" for girls nor a "Club Room" for boys, but attempt to "be all things to all men." Also, due to the fact that most of their patrons are not Tom Thumbs, they avoid using the last shelf if possible.

BRIGHTON: Splendid work is being done with books sent to the Women's

Municipal League. They supply almost wholly foreign children and Miss McKinnon's efforts in training them for library readers after they outgrow her collection are very fruitful.

Miss Brackett, Librarian of Brighton Branch, had charge of the Education Department monthly meeting, of the Brighthelmstone Club, February 6.

Tuesday, February 24, at 3.00 p.m., Professor Rogers of Massachusetts Institute of Technology will speak on "The Chief Living British Writers" at the fourth book review. The writers of whom Professor Rogers will speak are Shaw, Wells, Chesterton, Galsworthy, and Masfield.

Mr. John Clair Minot will give the Book Review talk in March, the exact date and subject to be announced later.

CITY POINT: Miss Murphy says that "Either crook or western will do" is the polite slogan of more than half of their fiction public.

CODMAN SQUARE: A little boy had been sent home from the Branch to wash his dirty hands. In a few minutes he came back in a very breathless condition, holding up his hands for inspection. When the librarian looked at him doubtfully and said, "You did not get them very clean," he replied, "Well, I was running to get back here and I fell down and got them dirty again."

EAST BOSTON reports that that district is rapidly becoming an Italian city. Many of the families who have clung to their old homes have moved to Winthrop this year, and the newcomers are almost invariably Italians.

This year the girls have been having their story hour from 6.30 to 7.30 p.m. in the Children's Reference Room, while the boys have theirs from 7.00 to 8.00 in the Lecture Hall.

FANEUIL points out the fact that there is a very noticeable building boom in Faneuil district. New houses, stores, and a fine new schoolhouse have been erected, and a new "Square" has been started. This all helps in making

our Branch a busier place and makes the district more interesting.

FELLOWES ATHENAEUM: When the Trustees of the Public Library of Boston decided to change the name from "Roxbury" to "Fellowes Athenaeum" something seems to have been gained in that everyone in the Roxbury district has been pleased to have the use of the old name revived. A short biographical sketch of Caleb Fellowes, whose name and likeness is found on the quaint old book-plates in all the books owned by the Athenaeum, appeared in the *Roxbury Tribune*, January 16, 1925. It was given somewhat as follows:

Caleb Fellowes was born in Gloucester in 1771, and as he grew up he was possessed of a great longing to go to sea. So, somewhat against the will of his family, he shipped for China, and for twenty-five years no one heard from him again. But during this time he had found his way to India where in trade he acquired a fortune. Finally, returning to America he was happily married, and after a while came to Roxbury to live, because it was here that his mother was born. Here, it is said, he spent some of the happiest years of his long life, enjoying his friends, and taking much pleasure in reading. Before he died he planned with these good friends the building of an Athenaeum for the people of Roxbury.

There is at this Branch a book shelf for the Literature class of one of the large Women's Clubs. This gives much satisfaction and brings some new readers to the library.

JAMAICA PLAIN: Four girls, members of the Girl Scouts, have been giving six hours service in cutting pictures for mounting and scrapbooks.

MT. PLEASANT: Many persons using the "showers" which are in the same building as the Branch never think of using the Library. To attract the attention of such persons typewritten sheets are posted there every month—

AFTER A SHOWER WHY NOT A BOOK!

THE LIBRARY IS JUST AROUND THE CORNER.
WHY NOT COME IN AND GET A BOOK?

One Saturday four men applied for cards. On being asked how they happened to visit this library, all replied: "Saw the notice down in the showers."

NORTH END: Miss Susan Bean has been appointed Children's Librarian at North End. This is a new position, and it without doubt fills a long felt want. Nowhere do the children need and desire proper guidance more than here.

PARKER HILL: Miss Sullivan, the librarian writes: "I cannot fail to say a word or two about the posters displayed in our window, particularly the one on "Dogs." We placed this poster in the window and around it we placed books opened at attractive illustrations. The congestion in front of the window caused the greatest curiosity to the passerby, while the demand for these books was so large that it would take almost a Solomon's wisdom to distribute them in a perfectly satisfactory and impartial manner. 'I was here first!' 'I was here before him!' and many such announcements were all that could be heard, and in less than one hour all the books were gone and have continued to be in circulation ever since." The Branch is doing its best to live up to its slogan, "Create the reading habit."

ROSLINDALE: A child came into the Branch asking for a book, the title of which she forgot, but said it had something to do with rags. We thought of many titles, some of which were, Raggedy Ann, and Lobo Rag and Vixen, but neither of these seemed to answer the purpose. It finally developed the book she wanted was "Patchwork."

WEST ROXBURY: The Girl Scouts applied at the Branch to do community work, and we realized it would be a great help to us if the duplicate numbers of the Geographic Magazines could be cut ready to mount for our picture collection. Since last April they have cut three thousand one hundred and sixty-two pictures on one hundred and eighteen subjects. They are also ready to take books and return them for people unable to come to the Branch.

NEWS NOTES.

Mr. Chester A. S. Fazakas of the Branch Department is writing a series of articles for *America* (beginning with the February 7 issue) dealing with the contemporary literature of Continental Europe. Among the countries whose authors will be discussed are France, Scandinavia, Poland, Russia, Hungary, Bohemia, and Italy.

To commemorate the one hundred and thirteenth anniversary of Dickens' birth, an exhibition of his autograph letters and first editions has been arranged in the Barton Room. In connection with the exhibition, in its issue for February 6, the *Boston Transcript* published a long article descriptive of our Dickensiana.

A member of the Persian Legation at Washington, visited the Library on January 23. He was much interested in the Persian books here.

The following composition, possibly a letter written for a prize, was found not long ago, in a dictionary. We are glad to know that some one — even if not the reference books of the Library — is "convalescing."

"The advent of the Cross Word Puzzle has brought forth many arguments, both pro and con. It has increased the cares and duties of all those connected with libraries, while on the other hand, it has brought joy and prosperity to the hearts of all sellers of dictionaries. It has converted the idler into such a fanatic that, instead of wasting his time, he spends it in a library chasing the elusive synonym for a "Nile Fish." But, best of all, we see joy brought to the hearts of those dear to us who are convalescing."

On Wednesday morning, January 18, Mr. Malcolm Willis Richards collapsed as he was leaving the Library and died on the way to the hospital. He was one of the most regular users of the Open Shelf Room. Curiously enough, he had just taken from that department a book on Immortality.

A leaflet just issued by the Fine Arts Division of the Library states the conditions under which lantern slides may be borrowed, and gives a convenient list of the principal subjects covered by the collection, which at present contains about 10,000 slides.

Mr. Belden, as Director of the Division of Public Libraries, State Board of Education, was invited to be the first speaker on the program of broadcasting, from station WNAC, The Shepard Stores, arranged by the Massachusetts Parent-Teacher Association. On Thursday, January 22, he spoke on the "Relation between the Library and the Parent, in the interest of the Child."

His many friends in the Library will be sorry to learn of the death of Rev. John T. Glodt, which occurred in Staten Island on Saturday, February 7. Father Glodt, who was connected with the Marist Fathers, was an art critic of ability, and wrote for the paper published by the Society of Mary a series of articles interpreting the Sargent paintings in the Library. In 1918 he delivered two lectures on the same subject in the Lecture Hall of the Library.

In "Books", the literary supplement of the *New York Herald Tribune*, for Sunday, February 8, appeared a long and appreciative article by Mr. Lawrence C. Wroth, Librarian of the John Carter Brown Library, on "A Manuscript Portolan Atlas in the Boston Public Library."

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association on Tuesday, February 10, the positions left vacant by the retirement of Mr. Walter Rowlands were filled as follows: Mr. William C. Maiers, was appointed on the Post Card Committee, and Mr. James Kennedy was made a member of the Board of Directors.

SICK LIST.

LIBRARY LIFE is happy to welcome back this month a group of reinvigorated associates — Miss Mary A. Reynolds, who is again at her post at the Issue Desk, after an absence of two months; Miss Alice V. Stevens of the Branch Dept.; Miss M. Josephine Day of the Executive Dept.; and Mr. Joseph W. Ward of the Shelf Dept. Our sympathy is extended to Mr. William Mulloney of Bates Hall Centre Desk who is confined to his home by an attack of influenza.

POST CARD COUNTER.

The first invoice of the new Abbey post cards in color went on sale at the post card counter the first of February. This marks the attainment of an object for which the Committee has been working for years. The Association congratulates the Committee on the success of their efforts. Full sets of the fifteen subjects are sold for One Dollar; single cards are ten cents each.

STAFF CLUB.

THE VALENTINE PARTY.

The announcement that the Staff Club is to conduct a "Valentine Party" in the Staff Class Room on Thursday evening, February 19th, at 7:45, arouses anticipation of some delightful possibilities. Let's all attend and join in the fun!

The unique and timely cross-word puzzle poster, which Miss Edith Gustafson of East Boston Branch designed for last month's Staff Club party, evoked much praise when it appeared on the bulletin board at Central.

RECEPTION TO NEW MEMBERS.

A Reception to New Members was the occasion, which in spite of the very low temperature, attracted a large number of Staff Club members to the Staff Class Room on Wednesday evening, January 28th. The room was

prettily decorated in shades of orchid and pale yellow and a large poster with "Welcome New Members," lettered on a yellow background, occupied a conspicuous place. After an address of welcome by the President, Miss Dorothy E. Harvey, the meeting was turned over to the committee in charge of the evening's program.

Miss Lydia Ciambelli sang "Roses of Picardy" and "O Sole Mio." She was followed by Miss Dora Mitnick of Emerson College who rendered "King Robert of Sicily," and "She Loved Him Weel."

Colored cardboard cutouts were distributed. When matched they provided partners for the jolly Virginia Reel.

After the intermission, when ice cream and cake were served, dancing was resumed and tables formed for whist. Several novelty features were introduced in the dances, the Broom Dance and the Spot Dance. The prize for the Spot Dance, "a box of ice cream, to take home," was awarded to Miss Clara Leon and Mr. William Brewster.

At the whist tables, Mr. John Murdoch won the first prize, a box of stationery, Miss Clara Jones the second prize, a cracker and cheese dish, and Mr. James Kelley received, as booby prize, a comical candy figure.

The music for the evening was generously provided by Misses Mary Curley, Ruth Hayes, Mary Galvin, and Edith Daly, and Messrs. William Clegg, Francis Matchett and Lee Dunn.

Miss Mary Curley, North End Branch, Chairman, Miss Anne Donovan, Roslindale Branch, Miss Marian McCarthy, Branch Dept., Miss Edith von Schoppe, Registration Dept., and Mr. Frank Hannigan, Periodical Dept., comprised the Committee for the evening.

M. A. M.

For the third year *House Beautiful* will exhibit its competition cover posters in the Exhibition Room, from February 23 to March 7. This colorful exhibition is one of the most popular that is held in the Library; as usual, visitors will be asked to vote for the best design.

THE OUTSIDE WIRE.

WHAT OTHER LIBRARIES ARE DOING AND SAYING.

"A fair exchange is no robbery"

Well, nothing happened! By this we mean that no one has yet pursued us with brickbats and bad language; our collar is still unsoiled (by alien or unfriendly fingers, that is); as for the seat — well, never mind! The main point is that no one has considered it necessary to put a speech (or is it a spoke?) in the wheel of our modest vehicle or forcibly to rip up our road of destiny. Perhaps the bumps therein for which Fate may justly be held responsible are considered to be quite sufficient chastisement for our temerity. At all events, here we are, a little older, a little sadder, and a little — oh, such a little! — wiser.

* * *

A little older; for it is a full month since last (or first) we "got out" the exchange column. It seems but yesterday; judging from the dearth of material at the present writing, it must have been.

* * *

A little sadder; for the seven-letter word meaning "decorative object commonly exhibited by trees prior to the development of the fruit (plural)" were (alas) as rare as the nine-letter word (also plural) meaning "small section of a well-known building material," which was mentioned in the first paragraph. The entrance of "The Outside Wire" into the literary (or at any rate the journalistic) world created about as much of a furor as a Paderewski haircut at a Bolshevik tea-party. The ripple it produced was perhaps equal to that of half a doughnut thrown overboard in mid-ocean by a very sick man. The silence with which the new venture was received was positively deafening. Beside it, the rumble of a railway train which has been traveling toward the sun at a mile a minute for six years (everyone knows the problem) was as the twelve o'clock whistle in a boiler factory compared to the tinkle of a

dime dropped by the Paymaster. But above all, no one has thought to send in any of those bright quips and anecdotes which help so much to ease the editor's life (in more ways than one!). And that, my friends, "was the kindest cut of all."

* * *

A little wiser; for we have learned that as no one likes what we say, we can say what we like!

* * *

Having got the above off our chest (it is a sad commentary on modern life that whereas our ancestors carried their burdens on their backs and prospered, we carry the weight of the world on our chests — to their lasting deformation) we shall now proceed to the only true and wise function of an exchange column, i.e., viz., to wit, as 'twere, the informing of the other libraries of the country what nice staff papers they have. This is indeed a task at once pleasant and proper. It is also one fraught with responsibility, for should we indulge in too much such blanket adulation it might be construed that we really had no praise for the sheets. Such, however, is not the case.

* * *

Of all our esteemed contemporaries (as they say in Journalism), the "newsiest" is by all odds *The Library Log* of the Cleveland Public Library. What with book-chat, gossip about authors, quotations from current volumes, local happenings, and that inimitable collection of library anecdotes — "Fish from the Log," — it offers an abundance of tit-bits to tempt the most varied appetites. Cleveland is no bigger than Boston, and we are not willing to admit that life there is any funnier than it is hereabouts. By what marvelous system of organization do they manage to catch and preserve all the amusing incidents which happen anywhere in their library system? "Speak up," Cleveland, "an' 'spress yo'self!"

Library Review (Dennison Manufacturing Co.) gives broad surveys of the new books and magazines which are added to the plant library. A notable feature of a closely knit organization such as Dennison's is the system whereby "if your name is on the Standing List for any of the following magazines they will come to you in due course. Check any in this list which you would like to receive regularly." Such are the blessings of a small (and private) library!

* * *

The following jingle is a direct result of the recent *Traveler* contest. Without undue egotism, we cannot help wondering whether it is not decidedly the most valuable result of that terrific expenditure of mental energy.

* * *

NO CROSS WORDS.

That cross-word puzzles are a boon
The papers all agree.
(This is about their only point
Of unanimity!)
The Public needs excitement —
Stimulation of the brain!
What matter if the Reference Workers
Nearly go insane?

"A process of photography";
"An ancient Arab chief";
"A synonym for 'Glyptodon'";
"Six letters meaning 'grief'";
"With weeping and with laughter," or
With groan and weary sigh,
The over-worked Librarians
Now joyfully reply:

CHORUS.

The volumes of "Britannica"
Were made for folks like you.
And Funk & Wagnalls publish books
That ought to help you, too.
Both "Webster's" and the "Oxford"
Are for consultation free;
You may make me lose my temper, but
No CROSS WORDS OUT OF ME!

The rules do not permit that we
Should help you find the word.
Of course we all agree with you
The ruling is absurd!
But just the same we're not to blame,
So please don't make a scene.
You'll speak to the Director?
You must think we're very green!

CHORUS.

(Post hoc, ad lib., and sine qua non.)
W. R. B.

PUBLICATIONS.

Operas, a selected list of scores, librettos and related works, was prepared in connection with the visit of the Chicago Civic Opera Company, January 26–February 7, 1925. This is Brief Reading List No. 31 and was compiled by Richard G. Appel, Assistant-in-Charge of the Brown Music Library.

The Dewey Decimal, perhaps, inspired the title "Ten-Book List." Beginning February 4, 1922, the series had attained to 106 numbers by September 24, 1924. At that time, fifty sets were made up, bound in cloth, with a title-page and indexes, and distributed, a copy to every Department and Branch. The indexes cover the wide range of topics treated, and give the names of the compilers of the lists.

Since the printing of the indexes, three more numbers have appeared. They are:

- No. 107, *Indians of America*, noticed in our last issue;
- No. 108, *Christmas Carols*, prepared by Mr. Richard G. Appel in connection with his lecture, "Christmas in Music and Pageantry," delivered in the Lecture Hall, December 15.
- No. 109, *Ports and Harbors*, prepared by Mr. Frank A. Bourne, in connection with his lecture, "How the Dutch do it: housing problems and port development," delivered in the Lecture Hall, December 18.

In the interest of a better and more wide-spread appreciation of Chamber Music, and by invitation of the Music Division of the Library, Professor Leo R. Lewis spoke on February 11th on "The String Quartet as a Musical Form," with special reference to the concert of the Flonzaley Quartet on February 12th. Professor Lewis has been a pioneer in conducting classes in the appreciation of music, and many of those who have heard "The Flonzaleys" by radio recently, welcomed an opportunity to become better acquainted with the aims and methods of their art.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume IV, No. 6

March 15, 1925

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
TREMOLO	65	OUTWARD BOUND	71
BOOK-MAKING—A FINE ART	66	POSTERS—PICTURESQUE AND POPULAR	72
ADULT EDUCATION AGAIN	66	SICK LIST	72
BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	66	MR. LONGFELLOW TURNS AUTHOR	73
STAFF CLUB	67	NEWS NOTES	74
THE LIBRARY GOES TO THE PEOPLE	67	"PASS IN REVIEW —"	75
BRANCH NEWS	68	"CHIEF LIVING BRITISH WRITERS"	76
EDITORIALS	70	WELL MERITED	76
MR. MAYNARD	71	THE OUTSIDE WIRE	76

TREMOLO.

On the evening of the last day of February, the Boston Public Library suffered a distinct shock. At first it was believed that a volume of Casanova's Memoirs had fallen from its shelf in the Reserve Collection.

It was about nine-fifteen when Mr. William Hickey, who was sitting in the elevator reading "Il Pastor Fido," by Giovanni Guarini (the Amsterdam edition of 1678), felt the entire building quiver.

"What was that?" The astonished voice of Mr. Parker Kennedy floated down the elevator shaft.

"That," explained Mr. Hickey, looking up from the page, "was an earthquake. It originated in a sub-strata rock movement in the extreme north-eastern part of the United States or in eastern Canada."

Meanwhile, in the Music Department, terrified readers surged about the desk of Miss Jennie Smithers, who was engaged in memorizing the Adagio of Beethoven's Ninth Symphony. Miss Smithers soothed them instantly by explaining that the earth tremor was caused by a slip of rock in a great fracture known as the Fundian Fault, which lies deep in the Atlantic bed off the Maine coast.

An old lady tottered forward and seized Miss Smithers's hand. "I'm glad to hear you say that," she gasped. "I was afraid, maybe, that someone in the library was playing that horrid jazz you hear about."

Within a few moments after the shock, the entire Back Bay rushed into the Information Office for advice and comfort. Now this department will gladly assist you to figure your income tax; select a school for your child; map out a trip abroad for your maiden aunt; or supply you with the circulation of a daily paper in Dubuque, Ia., BUT — when it comes to explaining why the pictures in a Beacon Street house should oscillate on the wall, and the solid furniture slide about the room, the Information Office was obliged to hang its head and retire in confusion behind a file of the Congressional Record.

"I thought surely the Library would know what had happened!" cried an exasperated lady. "Can't you call up Back Bay Information and find out?"

The assistant-in-charge was obliged to confess that the Library switch-board ceased functioning at nine o'clock.

"Has there been an explosion somewhere?"

"Why are the fire engines out?"

"What has happened?"

The erstwhile infallible Information Service could only shake a dumb-founded head.

"I should think," a haughty dowager paused in the doorway to remark, "that the Boston Public Library would install a radio in this department."

There's an idea! Add to worthy charities: a radio for the Information Office. Maybe we'll have one before the next earthquake. M. E. P.

BOOK-MAKING — A FINE ART.

Attention is called to the second annual exhibition of the American Institute of Graphic Arts, now being held at the Central Library under the auspices of the Society of Printers of Boston with the title "Fifty Books of 1924." This series of annual traveling exhibitions of books, chosen not for their literary contents but for their excellence as examples of book-making, encourages the best efforts of publishers and book-printers, and stimulates a wider interest on the part of the public in tasteful and well-made books. Of the 213 books submitted, the fifty selected represent 28 different sources — publishers, printers, book clubs, museums, libraries, college presses. The fact that nearly two-thirds of the books are from regular publishing houses, as opposed to books printed only for collectors or subscribers, is particularly gratifying. It is a matter of local interest to find that 23 of the items were published in New England, 16 of them in Greater Boston. Medals were awarded by a jury to Number 11 in the Limited Edition class, "Chinese Painting," by Agnes E. Meyer, published by D. B. Updike, The Merrymount Press of Boston, and to Number 18 in the Trade Edition class, "Dr. Johnson," by Percy Hazen Houston, exhibited by Bruce Rogers, Harvard University Press, Cambridge.

Mr. Belden was host at a meeting of the Society of Printers of Boston at a private view of the exhibit held in the Trustees' Room on Tuesday evening, March 10. Members of the Library staff should avail themselves of the opportunity to visit this interesting

exhibit, which will remain through March 27 in the Exhibition Room of the Central Library building.

ADULT EDUCATION AGAIN.

"Our American Public Library System is the largest ready-made instrument for adult education in the world. It would seem the part of wisdom to see to it that this instrument is made to supply books for the various agencies engaged in that work. To do this satisfactorily will require tolerance and liberal-mindedness on the part of library administrations in supplying books to meet all tastes and all needs. The public library of the modern type is of much tenderer growth than the public school, being less than fifty years old. When there is a wider understanding of its potential usefulness to all ages and conditions — of the power of the book to provide not only information but recreation, and intellectual and emotional satisfaction — the public library will everywhere be supported with enough liberality to enable it to secure the two essentials of satisfactory service, a staff sufficiently large and well-equipped and an adequate book supply."

The Nation, February 18th, 1925.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL MEETING.

The Annual Meeting of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association will be held in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library on Tuesday, April 7, at 11 a.m. At this meeting, officers will be elected for the coming year and any other business which may properly come before the Board will be transacted.

* * *

The President, Mr. James P. Mooers, has appointed Miss Eleanor Mulcahey, of the Fine Arts Dept., a member of the Post Card Committee, to fill the unexpired term of Mr. James Reay.

* * *

The Auditing Committee for 1925 is composed of Mr. William Swan, Mr. William Ennis, and Mr. Oscar Karrel.

STAFF CLUB.

VALENTINE PARTY.

Rosy Cupids fluttered about the members of the Staff Club who gathered in the Staff Room on Thursday evening, February 19th, to participate in a Valentine Party. The large heart poster, designed by Miss Edith Gustafson, and pink potted hyacinths, contributed by Mr. James Kelly, added color and atmosphere to the scene.

The program opened with community singing of favorite old time songs, led by Miss Helen Schubarth, with Miss Ethel Hazelwood at the piano. The "Canzonetta" of Godard, played by Mr. Felix Nessikian, violin, accompanied on the piano by Mr. Kenneth Barnes, was well applauded.

The donkey game excited great hilarity as the donkey was successively completed in various unusual anatomical forms. Miss Marian Brackett of Brighton Branch produced the most perfect and decorous donkey and, as a reward, received a pretty bulb bowl.

A candy heart hunt was next instituted. Miss Clara Leon collected the largest number of valentine trophies and was presented with an attractive box of candy. Miss Leon attributed her acquisitive success to the fact that she "kept close to the ground." As Miss Leon has carried off several Staff Club prizes recently, this remark may prove valuable as a "tip" for future occasions.

Innocuous comic valentines were then distributed, followed by surprise packages which disclosed hats, canes, balloons, perfume, galoshes, etc., to the merriment of recipients and beholders. After ice-cream, cakes and candy hearts were served, there was dancing until the closing hour, Miss Edith Daly, Mr. Joseph Gallagher, and Mr. Felix Nessikian supplying the music.

Miss Margaret Calnan, Jeffries Point, Chairman of the Committee, and her able assistants, Miss Anna Manning, Children's Room, Miss Grace Brady and Miss Anna Lynch, South Boston, and Mr. William Graham, are to be congratulated on the success of their efforts.

M. A. M.

The meeting of the Staff Club on Thursday evening, March 26, will be preparatory to the evening of plays to be given by the Club in April. Mr. F. W. C. Hersey, of Harvard University, who is an old friend of the Library, will give an illustrated talk on "The Art of the Theatre," in which he will tell of various methods of production used in the modern theatre, and will show colored slides depicting the work of the Russian Ballet, the Theatre Guild, Belasco, Walter Hampden, Gordon Craig, and other famous producers. The evening will close with dancing, as usual.

THE LIBRARY GOES TO THE PEOPLE.

For the first time in thirty years, the Boston Public Library has made an appeal to the public for funds. Mr. Kirstein, President of the Board of Trustees, in a carefully prepared article, has stated the immediate needs of the Library. Mr. Kirstein lays emphasis on the facts that physical repairs must be made at once both at Central and in the Branch System, that empty shelves must be filled, and that funds be made available for the purchase of sufficient numbers of important books to meet the steadily growing demand. The article was printed entire in several of the Boston daily papers, and in practically every case called forth an editorial drawing attention to the article and to the needs of our building and collections.

Mr. Kirstein has also appeared before a special committee of the Legislature asking for an appropriation of \$75,000, outside the budget, to cover the cost of repairs to the carrier system, the pneumatic tubes, the dynamos, and other worn-out machinery. In this matter he was also sustained by able editorials.

The interest of the Press has been aroused; with a proper response from the Public, there is prospect that our building may once more become the efficient, as well as beautiful, edifice which its founders intended it to be.

BRANCH NEWS

These verses, intended for publication last month, were crowded out. Fortunately, most magazines are but little more "timely" than books and the information on periodical literature given below is as good now as ever. As for the verses—"the flavor lasts."

COME, READ THE MAGAZINES.

No time for books, you say, then why not glean
Some information from the magazine?
Lest in the search some precious time you waste,
We'll give some samples that may suit your taste.

* * * *

Do you like sport? You do? Well, did you hear
That in some lines we had a banner year?
Read what "World's Work" and "Country Life" both say
Of laurels captured by the U. S. A.

* * * *

Bohemia, Moscow, Naples, and Peru,
The Syrian Desert, California, too,
Look for in "Travel," and in "Century"
And "Current History," Porto Rico see.

Does architecture mean for you far Rome,
Paris, fair Athens—anything but home?
No inspiration in your own you see?
Before you judge, read "Current History."

* * * *

"Mesocracy in France," you can find out
Just what that means and what it's all about,
In "Scribner's"; and, now Galworthy's the style,
His sketch on Conrad you may find worth while.

The English "Bookman" has good things galore
In Christmas number, nineteen twenty-four.
There, first of all, in divers moods is shown
George Bernard Shaw, the man who wrote
"Saint Joan."

Shaw's also featured in the "Century."
And there, too, Thomas Hardy you will see.
While Meiklejohn a college new portrays,
And Hindus Russia's new regime displays.

Enough of samples—why be satisfied
With nibbles, when the whole is not denied?
Go to your library when you have leisure—
"Central" and "Branches" all await your pleasure.

The above verses were written by Miss Jean B. Lay, assistant in the Catalogue Division of the Branch Department, for the Branches, and published in the *South End Sun*, January

30. Miss Lay's ability to write poetry was first brought to our attention at the Branch Christmas Party, when some jingles were read, which described different people of the Department.

The monthly meeting of the C and D Branch Librarians was held at Allston Branch, on February 20. There was a very lively discussion on the subject of Losses and Mutilations. After 9 o'clock, Miss Muldoon's able assistants decorated one of the library tables with appropriate Washington's Birthday material, and much appreciated refreshments were served. The next meeting will be held at Parker Hill Branch.

BOYLSTON: Miss Nickerson has been using the windows of the Branch to good advantage. At present she has on display in one window a collection of books for teachers, and in the other window a Dutch village with a collection of books on Holland.

BRIGHTON: Another successful Book Review Talk was given on February 24, by Professor Rogers, of Massachusetts Institute of Technology, on the subject of "The Chief Living British Writers."

Miss Brackett has had a folder prepared which advertises these lectures, and incidentally advertises the Allston and Faneuil Branches. The picture of the Brighton Branch at the top of the folder, which was worked out in the Printing Department, makes a very attractive heading.

The next Book Review Talk is to be held March 26. Mr. J. C. Minot, of the *Boston Herald* will speak on "The Latest in Literature."

DORCHESTER: It is a pleasure to announce that electric lights have been installed at Dorchester and Lower Mills Branches.

FELLOWES ATHENÆUM: Years ago—how many, only one person knows and he is not telling—a youngster visited

the Roxbury Branch of the Boston Public Library and broke a bust of George Washington. Now, when George cut down the cherry tree and his father questioned him, he told the truth and got his start on the road to immortal fame. But nobody in the library heard the bust crash to the floor, hence nobody taxed the scared youngster, and long ago the incident was forgotten by all but the boy.

The other day there arrived at the library a huge package. Surprised attendants removed layers and layers of tissue wrapping until finally there gazed up at them the serene countenance of the Father of His Country. With the gift came this explanatory note: "This bust of George, the Immortal, I am sending to take the place of one I broke in the library when I was a youngster." The bust, needless to say, has been accorded a place of honor, and the note is carefully preserved in a spirit of gratitude to the donor who concealed his name, but revealed a conscience.

JAMAICA PLAIN: This Branch has arranged a table near the front door on which have been placed about 75 books appropriate for the Lenten Season. Miss Baker's beautiful poster "Read for Your Inspiration During the Lenten Season" serves as a good advertisement of the collection. Already about one-third of the books have been given out. Miss Kelly, who conceived the idea, is quite pleased with the success of her plan.

ORIENT HEIGHTS: Miss Flannery has a very attractive window display at Orient Heights — a full-rigged sloop, moving over a blue paper sea along a channel marked "Guides to Good Reading." This very fine little boat belongs to one of the temporary assistants at the Branch, Herman Sorensen, and his brother Norman, and was built by John Olsen, age 78, of Kolding, Denmark. It is a perfect model of a Danish pleasure yacht. Two years ago Mr. Olsen visited this country, and while here he made the Sorensen children a present of the model.

WEST END: Miss Goldstein writes the following in her annual narrative report: "We had for many years accustomed ourselves to the rumor of the widening of Cambridge Street. Year in and year out nothing seemed to happen until we finally labelled the subject a phantasy of the distant future. In the smugness of our security, agencies, businesses, homes, and institutions continued to carry on their activities in the West End, without actually giving this subject any serious thought.

"Then on one of those perfect days in June such as the poet sang of, the West End awoke to find itself all out of tune. As if overnight, with a stroke of an ill-tempered magic wand, some forty property leases on the south side of Cambridge Street were cancelled. These leases were nearly all held by petty shop-keepers, aided by the wife as assistant manager, and the children. All lived in the immediate neighborhood of the library, in the best homes of the district.

"Deprived of their immediate means of livelihood in the West End, these people rapidly packed up their belongings and moved, bag and baggage, in families complete from grandparents to the newest born grandchild. There commenced a dramatic cycle of moving — a shifting of population and races such as hits a given locality about once in 25 years — of extreme interest to social service workers and to the library, inasmuch as it is necessary for it to keep its finger on the pulse of the public."

WEST ROXBURY: The fourth book review in the library hall, under the direction of the Women's Club Literature Department, was given Tuesday morning by Rev. Harold Green Arnold, when he discussed "Recent Verse," and read extracts from the "Life and Letters of Emily Dickinson," said to be the finest letters by a woman ever written in the English language. Extracts were also read from the writings of Emily Brontë, from "The Magic Carpet," by Mrs. Waldo Richards and from Clarke's "Treasury of War Poetry."

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

WILLIAM R. BREWSTER	HARRY W. MATHEWS
WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM	MARION A. MCCARTHY
ZOLTÁN HARASZTI	MARY E. PRIM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY	HARRIET SWIFT
LUCIEN E. TAYLOR	

Vol. IV, No. 6.

March 15, 1925

Editor-in-Charge for this issue, William R. Brewster.

THE PRESIDENCY.

In the summer of 1926, the American Library Association will celebrate its jubilee. The Conference, which will probably be held in Philadelphia, will coincide in date with the one hundred and fiftieth anniversary of the Declaration of Independence, and will in many ways be a notable one. For us of the Boston Public Library it will be a moment of deep pride, for our own Director, Charles F. D. Belden, has been nominated as President of the Association for the year 1925-1926, and will be the presiding officer on the great occasion.

It is no accident which brings this honor to the Library and to Mr. Belden. Twice before the nomination has been tendered to him, only to be refused. This time the offer has come in a form which demanded acceptance. Mr. Belden will have no opposition for the office; he is the uncontested choice of the librarians of the country for their Fiftieth-Year President; and the Trustees have finely seconded the nomination in the following resolution:

RESOLVED: That the Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston record their satisfaction in the honor that has come to the Library and its Director through the nomination of Mr. Belden as President of the American Library Association, a national association of librarians and library trustees, for the year 1925-1926, and their approval of his acceptance of the uncontested nomina-

tion; and assure the Director of their interest and support in his work for the Association.

Friday, February 20, 1925.

Probably no one planned the coincidence; but it is of interest to us that the first President of the American Library Association, in 1876, was that great scholar, Justin Winsor, who was then at the head of the Boston Public Library; and that the logic of events has now selected, as the most fitting person to occupy Winsor's chair at the close of fifty years, the present Director of the same institution.

The *Boston Transcript* did us all a service by printing in its issue of February 27, in which Mr. Belden's nomination was announced, a comprehensive account of his professional history. He is a real librarian, whose career, beginning while he was still a student in the Harvard Law School, has been marked by an unbroken succession of solid achievements. His catalogue of the Law School Library still remains his most conspicuous piece of bibliographical work; but his services in the reorganization of the Social Law Library, in the administration of the State Library during a most critical period, and in our own Library, together with his long and devoted work as Chairman of the Board of Free Public Library Commissioners of the Commonwealth, have been full of fruits, which have received steadily growing recognition. For anything of importance in library work—that of the A. L. A. during the war, that of the Merchant Marine Library Association—Mr. Belden is the obvious leader in this part of the country; he is to-day the outstanding librarian of New England, where the library movement had its rise and its first large development. And more and more, in national library affairs, as in the very significant Commission on Adult Education, recently constituted, Mr. Belden's assistance is eagerly sought.

Once more, we are proud of this fresh recognition — the highest in the gift of the librarians of the country. We greet Mr. Belden, in the words borrowed by the *Transcript* from Mr. Bostwick, as "a scholar without ped-

antry; a man of the world without indifference; a friend of the people without sentimentality."

LIBRARY LIFE offers an apology for its mistake in announcing the price of the new colored postcards from the Abbey paintings, on sale by the Benefit Association. The cards, on which the Association is to be heartily congratulated, are ten cents each, or one dollar and a half (not one dollar, as stated) for the full set of fifteen.

OUR PALACE.

The beautiful building in which we live and work is just thirty years old. "Built by the people and dedicated to the advancement of learning" and "Free to all," it was opened to the public on March 11, 1895, a palace worthy to be the cherished adornment of any city, ancient or modern. It was honestly built, and was equipped with devices for prompt and efficient service, for comfort and for use, which represented the best standards of the time when it was erected. For thirty years, hundreds of employees and millions of readers have used it lovingly and used it hard, and to-day it is not strange that the palace shows wear.

The President of the Board of Trustees did a courageous and statesman-like thing when he sent to the newspapers the statement published on February 16, in which he sets forth without concealment the present condition of our palace and its machinery. It was apparently taken for granted that the building was so good that it would last forever, without the steady and vigilant maintenance which every building requires. The ventilating system, once the pride of the architects, has gone to rack and ruin — it is no more. Lighting and heating need complete overhauling. The book railway and its accompanying elevators have been tinkered till they refuse to function without thorough renovation, and, in a greatly enlarged building, the books must now be laboriously carried in the arms of boys and girls, from end to end of the

stacks, upstairs and down, that the public may have even a slow and uncertain service. The pneumatic tubes are constantly on the verge of collapse, and many other features of the library machinery are in a condition in which we almost welcome complete breakdown: "one less thing to try to keep going!"

Noblesse oblige. A palace is a thing of beauty, and consequently an undying joy, even in ruins. But our palace has other functions beyond being the most beautiful municipal building in America. The press of the city has responded with gratifying zeal to Mr. Kirstein's plea, and we hope for an equally generous response on the part of the City Fathers. Service is the Library's only valid excuse for being; and we look forward to the day, not too far distant, when our palace will again be fully equipped for the most severe demands that the people of Boston may make upon it.

MR. MAYNARD.

On February 20, the Board of Trustees appointed George S. Maynard to succeed Mr. Rowlands as First Assistant in the Special Libraries Department. Mr. Maynard has done a valuable piece of work in the creation of an efficient Technology Division where, prior to his appointment in 1916, there had been nothing but an unorganized mass of material, with no one especially trained to administer it. Mr. Maynard's training in library technique, combined with a faculty for organization, has enabled him to introduce methods and machinery in the work of his Division, which have quickly proved their practical value. As First Assistant, he will be called upon to put into effect a judicious and carefully planned reorganization of the work and service of the Department as a whole.

OUTWARD BOUND.

In the last round-up of books for American sailors, in 1923 — conducted by the American Merchant Marine Li-

brary Association — the people of Massachusetts contributed 42,000 volumes. There are over 200,000 men in our merchant marine. Nine hundred ships are now on the waiting-list for sea libraries.

The seafarer has many leisure hours, and books are almost always the only practical resource for recreation and self-improvement. Books of adventure, detective stories, standard novels, biography, history, science, technical works, "everything between covers" will be welcome and "read to pieces."

Let each of us give, not only a few discarded magazines and best sellers, but at least one book of real value.

Sailors of America, we're here!

SICK LIST.

LIBRARY LIFE extends its sympathy, this month, to several sick associates: Miss Ida Denny, North End Branch; Miss Anne Connolly, South Boston Branch; and Miss Clara Maxwell, South End Branch.

Members of the Library Staff and habitués of the Fine Arts Department will rejoice over the return of Miss Loraine Sullivan after an illness of three months' duration. Mr. William Mulloney, of Bates Hall Centre Desk, and Mr. James Lannon, Engineers' and Janitors' Dept., have returned to their duties, each having had a painful siege with the prevalent influenza.

POSTERS—PICTURESQUE AND POPULAR.

During the past fortnight, the Fine Arts Exhibition Room has been a rendezvous for artists and those interested in art, not to mention those whom accident or curiosity had drawn to the scene. From a thousand posters submitted in competition for the *House Beautiful* cover prize, one hundred and twenty were chosen by the judges for exhibition. Attractively arranged about the room, they afforded the visitors an hour of widely varied pleasure. The designs included many types. Old houses were the favorite subject; they peeped out from hollyhock gar-

dens, they shimmered in the Southern moonlight, they were even imaginatively perched on huge toad-stools.

The first prize, of five hundred dollars, was awarded to Mrs. Alice Preston, a graduate of the Normal Art School. Her poster showed a little girl in an old curiosity shop, full of all sorts of interesting, old-fashioned articles—queer tea-pots, back-scratchers, vases in odd shapes, etc. It is of interest that Mrs. Preston owns all the curios which she portrays on her successful cover.

There were, of course, several entertaining remarks made by observers, and the attendant in charge was careful not to miss any of them. The first day, before the publicity managers had "got in" their work, two little Jewish children came in.

Children: "What's this?"

Attendant: "Cover exhibition."

Children (in unison): "Aw, Gee! Giving 'em away? Gimme one?"

The day after the earthquake, a tiny tot stood before a drawing of a house precariously tilting on the edge of a precipice. Apparently the upheaval had made enough impression upon her to color her remarks. "Oh, if that had been in the earthquake, it would have fallen. Muvver, you wouldn't want to fall off there, would you?"

One of the artists to receive honorable mention was Mrs. Marjory Woodbury Smith, a classmate of Mrs. Preston. Her cover has a decided *Chauve Souris* atmosphere. In the corner is a little girl leading a pig by a rope. Curiously enough, the rope is attached to the hind leg of the pig rather than being fastened around its neck. When asked to explain this unusual location, Mrs. Smith said very seriously that an authority on such subjects told her that was the proper way to lead a pig. It is easy to see that she took the advice to heart, because, if one examines the neck of the pig closely enough, he will see a dark rim—not dirt, but the former resting place of the rope.

We are all glad that the Library was the scene of this unique display of modern cleverness in art, and we look forward eagerly to the fourth annual exhibition of the *House Beautiful* covers, next year.

F. B. B.

MR. LONGFELLOW TURNS AUTHOR

In honor of the one hundred and eighteenth anniversary of the birth of Longfellow, February 27, an exhibition of his autograph letters and first editions has been arranged in the Barton Room.

The Library possesses a large and valuable collection of Longfellow's works. From the earliest volume to the last, almost all the poet's works are represented by first editions. The number of autograph letters is about fifty. Half of them were written in 1832 and 1833, while Longfellow was professor of modern languages at Bowdoin College. They are addressed to Charles Folsom, who was at the time chief reader at the University Press, Cambridge. Longfellow was then busy editing text-books—French, Spanish, Italian grammars and readers—and his letters contain instructions, or ask advice, concerning his books. But they are full of personal matters also. They certainly should deserve the attention of students of Longfellow. There is no space here for an elaborate disquisition on these letters; we quote a few short excerpts only, to show their general tone.

On Thursday morning, December 1, 1832, writes the poet:

I thought the mail of last evening might possibly bring me a letter from you — but no letter came.

What think you of the ex-President's Narrative Poem? I have been reading it this morning; and have finished the First Canto. If the others are not better, I shall wish he had not published it.

Heigho! I am out of humor with matters and things in general. This teaching boys their a, b, c, is growing somewhat irksome. Morning, noon, night — toujours perdrix! — I mean to turn author and write a book, not a grammar. Farewell, etc.

"I mean to turn author and write a book." He did it. His letter dated April 7, 1833, contains the following passage:

*The Narrative Poem in question is John Quincy Adams's "Dermot MacMorrogh; or the Conquest of Ireland," an historical tale of the twelfth century, in four cantos. Boston. Carter, Hendee & Co. 1832.

Pray what is going on in your quarter of the world? I have not heard a whisper for the whole winter through. For my own part I have been busy in writing down some of my reminiscences of Europe, and if you should see a thin volume of sketches in a brown cover, and lettered No. 1, quietly reposing some morning of May in your pigeon-hole at the Post-office you must not be surprised; for stranger things have happened. Mr. Gray is trying to find me [a] publisher; but I fancy he finds it rather hard work, since I hear nothing from him upon the subject. . . .

And three months later:

I herewith send you No. 1 of the Sketches of Europe, concerning which I wrote you some time since. The publication has been delayed from day to day, beyond all patience, by a thousand "lets and stops" quite beyond my control. But the work is at length completed, and will appear incessantly; *il paraîtra incessamment*.

All this refers to "Outre-Mer," rarest of Longfellow's works, a copy of which sold lately for 440 dollars. The Library received its copy in 1904, by exchange, from the library of Bowdoin College.

In its issue for February 27, the *Boston Transcript* published an article descriptive of our Longfellow collection and autographs. But the letters have never been published. It is interesting to note that their very existence was a surprise even to the descendants of the poet. Miss Alice Longfellow, daughter of the poet, and Prof. H. W. L. Dana, his grandson, first learned from the *Transcript's* article of these letters. Miss Longfellow possesses the largest collection of Longfellow autographs; the poet's letters, written to George W. Greene — for long in the possession of J. C. Chamberlain — were bought back by her several years ago. In order to complete their collection, Prof. Dana has asked permission to make photographs of our letters.

These manuscripts were given to the Library in 1904 by Mrs. Norton Folsom, from the estate of Charles W. Folsom. But while seven-eighths of the Folsom estate were vested in Mrs. Folsom, the rest was held in trust for several persons whose share could not be transferred by gift, so the Library agreed to pay one hundred dollars to purchase the remaining equity.

Z. H.

NEWS NOTES

On Tuesday, February 17th, Joseph Crowley, of the Patent Room, suffered a sprained ankle. Somehow the rumor quickly spread that he had broken his leg. Like Mark Twain, however, Mr. Crowley is happy to say, "the reports of my death have been greatly exaggerated."

Miss Gladys Locke's mystery story, "The Purple Mist," is running serially in the *Boston Post*. We hope to announce soon that the motion picture rights have been acquired by the "Big Six."

The literary atmosphere of the Catalogue Room has been further enriched by the acquisition of Mr. Elliot H. Paul, the novelist who has made the present-day life of the West End widely famous.

Owing to the absence of His Honor the Mayor, the lecture, "Boston, the Convention City," scheduled to be delivered by him on Sunday, March 1, was given by Mr. Charles J. Fox, the Budget Commissioner of the City of Boston.

On Sunday, February 22, Judge Michael J. Murray, Vice President of the Board of Trustees, delivered an address on "Worthwhile Patriotism" in the Lecture Hall, before one of the largest audiences of the year. The newspapers of the following day commented enthusiastically on the lecture, and printed long extracts from it.

Thirty odd members of the staff gathered in the New Boston Bowling Alleys on Thursday evening, February 26, for the sixth annual bowling party of the staff. The scores were excellent, and it is almost needless to say that "a good time was had by all." Prizes were awarded to Mr. William Clegg, of the Periodical Room, for the highest men's single string, 117; to Mr. William Swan, of the Bindery, for the highest men's total, 289; to Miss May Burke, of the Issue De-

partment, for the highest ladies' single-string, 89; and to Miss Harriet Mulloy, of the Ordering Department, for the highest ladies' total, 231. The committee in charge consisted of Mr. John O'Brien, chairman, Miss Margaret Calnan, Miss May Burke, Miss Anna Manning, and Mr. Emil Hofman.

Mr. John O'Brien, of the Bindery, is the recipient of a charming letter of thanks from Reverend Dr. Gordon, of the Old South Church, expressing his appreciation of "Pidgy," the poem on the pigeons in the church tower, of which Mr. O'Brien had sent him the original manuscript. Incidentally, Mr. O'Brien's latest song, "Sweetheart Eileen," is now in press and will shortly be on sale in the music stores.

Fred Allen, a former employee of the Library, who is well known among the older members of the staff as Eddie Sullivan, lately played his annual engagement in Boston with the "Greenwich Village Follies." He had a column of jokes in a recent number of *Variety*.

Among recent distinguished visitors to the Library was the Reverend Abbé van Cauwenbergh, librarian of the University of Louvain. He showed deep interest in the various departments of the Library, and spent much time in looking into the methods of work here. We have a special interest in the library of Professor van Cauwenbergh, which is now being rebuilt with American aid, from the fact that our Library recently sent to Louvain one hundred selected volumes as a gift.

Miss Ethel Hazelwood, of the Branch Department, was awarded an \$18.00 storage battery by station WNAC, as a prize for writing the best letter telling about their program.

The Massachusetts Maine Daughters, the leading organization of Maine women in the state, held an open

meeting on the afternoon of Thursday, March 5, with the Library as its subject. The meeting was preceded by a luncheon at the Westminster, at which twelve other organizations of Maine women were present. At 3 o'clock, the assembled guests, to the number of about three hundred, gathered in the Lecture Hall of the Library, where they were welcomed by Mr. Belden. Mr. Chase, who is a native of Maine, then described some of the important features of the Library and displayed many of its treasures. The audience took such a keen interest in the books and manuscripts that, when the conventional hour was up, it positively refused to leave, and not until persistent visions of the 5.15, pulling out of the South Station without him, overcame even Mr. Chase's sense of hospitality, was he able to persuade them that the "show was over." It is indeed a privilege to receive a visit from so enthusiastic a group of representative Bostonians.

During February, Miss Jordan spoke, on the 11th, at the Bancroft School, Worcester, on "Books for the Younger Children," and, on the 16th, to a reading club of girls at the Roxbury High School, on "Reading for Pleasure and Profit."

Mr. Morris Gest, the well-known theatrical producer, was a recent visitor at the Library. Mr. Gest is one of the American sponsors for the famous Russian "Chauve Souris," which is now appearing at the Shubert Theatre in a new bill. Several examples of stage-settings from the "Chauve Souris" are now on view in the Exhibition Room.

Mr. Zoltán Haraszti talked on Modern Hungarian literature at the Venturer Bookshop, Sunday evening, March 8. The charming, friendly place was full to overflowing with an audience responsive to his characterization of the literature of the Magyars. He stimulated the appetite for a poetry which is not easily translatable, and novels which are still unknown to the English-reading world.

On Friday afternoon, February 13, Mr. Chase addressed the Alpha Club of Blackstone, Mass., on "Life in a Great Library."

MAPLE PRODUCTS.

The sap is running! The maple sugar season it at hand! Mr. E. W. Clifford, of North Pomfret, Vermont, the Library's long-time purveyor of maple products, is ready to supply his excellent sweets at the usual prices. Those who prefer may have the goods shipped direct to their home addresses at an extra cost of ten cents per parcel.

Orders should be placed with Miss Margaret C. Lappen, in the Information Office. The price list follows:

Syrup, Gallon . . .	\$2.25
Sugar, 10 lb. pail . . .	3.00
" 5 lb. pail . . .	1.60
" 1 lb. cake . . .	.45
Maple cream, Pint . . .	.75
Postage, extra.	

"PASS IN REVIEW —"

Thirty years ago, on March 11, 1895, the B. P. L. moved into its (then) new building in Copley Square. Of the staff which took part in that important event, twenty-four — twelve men and twelve women — are still at their posts, after nearly a third of a century of service. Here they are:

THE GIRLS	THE BOYS
Miss Cufflin (now S. B. Br.)	Mr. Blaisdell
Miss Deery	Mr. Brennan
Miss Doyle	Mr. Buckley
Miss Frinsdorff	Mr. Chevalier
Miss Murray (Mrs. Keenan)	Mr. Connor
Miss Kiley	Mr. Hemstedt
Miss Macurdy	Mr. Herland (March 10, '95)
Miss Nichols	Mr. Hoefner
Miss Reynolds	Mr. Lee
Miss Richards	Mr. Maier
Miss Mary Riley (now W. E. Br.)	Mr. M. McCarthy
Miss Sheridan	Mr. Ward

LIBRARY LIFE congratulates them all on the loyalty and devotion which such a record implies, and hopes that in the future the Library may always be served as generously and faithfully as it has been in the past by these twenty-four members of the "Old Guard."

"CHIEF LIVING BRITISH WRITERS."

Those who were privileged to hear Professor R. E. Rogers lecture at the Brighton Public Library were given a rare intellectual treat. Beginning with Kipling, whom he called the "prophet of imperialism," "a Tory of the Tories," "an interesting phenomenon" who was soured by the defeat of his pet cause — absolute imperialism, he then presented the achievements of Shaw, Wells, Chesterton, and Galsworthy, and dissected the minds of these virile writers with the deft sure touch of a master. He said we in America are indebted to the domination of their minds — beginning at the turn of the century — for being more in tune with everything European. He said there are no writers now who can equal them in importance of subject or scope of work; but this generation in England looks upon them as *passés*. In like manner do young Frenchmen look upon Anatole France, the young Italians upon D'Annunzio, and in Russia they consider Tolstoi a calamity to the country. Shaw he said, is the Dean Swift of his time. He also compared him to Voltaire, Wells to Molière, and Chesterton to St. Thomas Aquinas.

Galsworthy — a graduate of Oxford — he said was the only gentleman among them who was an artist for art's sake. The others were all crusaders, artists when it suited them to be; they were all sure, hopeful, healthy. Galsworthy is more sensitive to suffering, poverty, and the under dog. He touches life with pity and irony. He has never written a thesis novel — but always problem novels. A thesis novel, he explained, is one in which the writer makes a statement and tries to prove it. In a problem novel, a question is asked, and the author attempts to give both sides, and leaves the question unanswered.

He spoke briefly of Masefield, mostly of his poetry. He said Masefield is chiefly interested in things religious: life, death, and immortality. His outlining of Chesterton's spiritual

processes by which he finally became a member of the Roman Catholic Church was also very interesting. He said Chesterton is the greatest convert to Catholicism since Cardinal Newman.

D. E. H.

WELL MERITED.

The many friends of Mr. Rowlands will be pleased to read the following minute adopted by the Board of Trustees on the occasion of his retirement:

"RESOLVED: That the Board of Trustees of the Public Library of the City of Boston place on record its appreciation of the long and faithful service of Walter Rowlands, the retired Assistant-in-charge of the Division of Fine Arts and at various times Acting Chief of the Special Libraries Department.

Mr. Rowlands brought to his work, in addition to a really important knowledge in several branches of art, a cheerful helpfulness and an unflinching industry and enthusiasm which endeared him not only to his colleagues but to a large public.

In Mr. Rowlands' departure under the Retirement Act the members of the Board congratulate him on his record of twenty-three years of loyal and efficient service, and extend to him their best wishes for many years of health and happiness.

THE OUTSIDE WIRE.

Those persons who may have been wondering vaguely why an exchange column should have been named "The Outside Wire," will at last have their misgivings set at rest. This month, the exchange column is indeed "outside"—in fact, completely so. The exigencies of that mysterious thing, "make-up" (no, ladies, we don't mean what you mean. You are right, there is nothing mysterious about that!) demanded that the "colyum" be sacrificed. But in deference to the clamor of our public, we print the following timely excerpt:

HISTORY RETOUCHE.

The telephone rang, and . . . a "gentleman and a scholar" called to make inquiry as to the birthplace of Alexander the Great. The helpful assistant reported that Alexander the Great was born in Pella, Macedonia; whereupon the "G and S" replied: "Excuse me lady, but I think you're a little nuts. The name of the city begins with a W and contains seven letters, according to the crossword puzzle in yesterday's *American*."

(*Staff News*, Chicago Public Library.)

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume IV, No. 7

April 15, 1925

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
OUR PAINTER	77	EDITORIALS	82
QUEER CARGO	77	A. L. A.	83
THE ART OF THE THEATRE	78	NEWS NOTES	84
WITHOUT PENSION	79	LAST CALL	85
THE BOWDITCH EXHIBITION	80	BRANCH NEWS	85
BLUE AND BURNISHED GOLD	80	THE OUTSIDE WIRE	87
THE RING: A REFERENCE ROMANCE	81	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	88
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION	81	SICK LIST	88

OUR PAINTER.

John Sargent is dead. Universally acclaimed yesterday as the world's greatest living painter, to-day he is a memory. In few places was the big, genial man, with the sagging clothes and the eternal cigarette, a more familiar figure than in the Boston Public Library. He was our great man, and we were very proud of him. We had seen him in overalls, and knew that he was "own folks"; and we knew also that he was the man called by critics "the only living old master."

Many illustrious names stand on the roll of the Library's history. But when all have been dimmed by the passage of time, pilgrims will still be coming to see the Sargent paintings. So far as world-fame is concerned, he is our greatest figure.

QUEER CARGO.

About the middle of February, an S. O. S. call went out for books for seamen. Within a week so many volumes arrived that the good ship B. P. L. was in danger of being water-logged. In the hold, or rather the shipping-room

(and you must admit that was an appropriate place!) one saw stacks of novels, still in the publishers' wrappers, their leaves uncut; the latest works on mathematics, seamanship, business, farming, history, essays, poetry. The people of New England were giving the best, with both hands. No ship need sail from port without a well-stocked library.

All the fiction that figured in the latest best-seller list was received, also the non-fiction most in demand at public libraries. But other books came too. Poor battered derelicts limped into port after years of drifting in the Sargasso Sea of someone's attic. For instance, one inspired book-lover sent in one volume of a dictionary of Greek Mythology, published in 1870. Another treasure likely to lead to jealous altercation among sea-going bibliophiles, is the American Law Register for 1862. Not to mention volume five of the Report of the U. S. Commission to the Paris Exposition of 1889.

Think of the good clean fun the sailors will get from "Centa, the Child-Violinist," formerly the property of the Passyunck Sunday School of Philadelphia. For those who love the great outdoors (and who of our brave mariners does not?) some kind friend sent a nice copy of "Dotty Dimple at Play." For reading in those last few moments before the sandman comes to close the sleepy sailor laddies' eyes, a thought-

ful donor rushed along a copy of "The adventures of Prickly Porker."

Whoever sent in the Boston Social Register for 1914 and the 1920 Calendar of the Second Church of Dorchester, Mass., knew what would delight the gallant boys who sail the ocean blue. And think of the rousing cheers that would greet the neat brown volume, lettered in gold: "Separate System of Sewerage." The date of publication is 1886.

"The doings of a Dear Little Couple" sounds as if it had possibilities until you open it and find that the dear little couple is (or are?) aged five and seven. But here is a book of short stories. Let us try "The Album." "Ungallant!—Unmilitary!" exclaimed the beautiful Orinda Melbourne to her yet unconfessed lover, Lieutenant Sunderland, as in the decline of a summer afternoon, they sat near an open window in the north-west parlor of Mr. Cozzens' house at West Point, where as yet there was no hotel — 'and do you steadily persist in refusing to write in my album?'"

Just another of those flapper stories. Miss Leslie wrote it, and it was the last word among the sweet young things of 1835.

Mr. Folsom, in charge of the receiving station for seamen's books, sums it up shrewdly: "There are some people who will never part with anything they have ever owned. They honestly believe it is valuable because it is theirs. Queen Victoria was like that. Strachey says it was because she was against change and afraid of death. She hoped to put back the clock by keeping things as they had always been.

"The people who donate those useless old books really think they're doing something noble. You can see that by the careful way they wrap the books and send them, often in the family limousine in care of the chauffeur. Those books have been in their homes ever since they can remember. They're old books, so they must be worth a lot of money. Fortunately for the sailors, there aren't many people like that, but we get a lot of fun out of their well-meaning contributions."

A few days ago, a woman entered the Information Office carefully holding a small box. "This is to go to the sailors," she explained. It was the pieces of a jig-saw puzzle, entitled "Moonlight."
M. E. P.

THE ART OF THE THEATRE.

The announcement that Professor Frank W. C. Hersey was to lecture before the Staff Club on the Art of the Theatre was sufficient to crowd the Staff Lecture Room on Thursday evening, March 26. Mr. Frank H. Chase, in introducing Professor Hersey, spoke of the advance in the scenic presentation of plays, of the value of electric lighting to producers, and called attention to the fact that Professor Baker's new course at Yale now falls not under the caption of "English," but comes under "Fine Arts."

Professor Hersey traced briefly the progress of the pictorial art of the theatre — one in which electricity has played a large part. He said that theatrical art now appeals to the eye principally, and he showed many slides illustrating the changes which have come over the theatre both architecturally and scenically from the days of the primitive settings of Shakespearean plays to the elaborately naturalistic effects of the present-day play.

The first great exponent of naturalism was Sir Henry Irving who spent lavish sums for his productions of Shakespeare. Irving was a great producer as well as a great actor. Artistic stage design began with him.

Sir Herbert Tree presented many spectacular effects and became a master of the art of atmospheric production. These two men were masters in the art of faithfully realistic settings and were the first to recognize the value of electric light as an aid to stage production.

From 1904 on, the influence of Gordon Craig, Ellen Terry's son, was apparent upon the English stage. With settings of symbolical form, upon a background of simplicity, with an effect of spaciousness, he did extraordinary things with lighting effects. En-

glish producers were slow to adopt his designs but Germany and Russia have used Craig's ideas largely.

Professor Hersey then spoke of the influence of the Continental theatre, especially the Moscow Art Theatre. The *Chauve Souris* presents a recent example of Russian drama and Russian dancing, set in a riot of Russian colors. Leon Bakst brought to the theatre all the color and vividness of the Orient. Bakst's settings are indeed the story; he is barbaric and deals with wild emotions. His scenes are like a blare of trumpets in color while his costumes are amazingly bizarre.

In America, Joseph Urban came into the theatre as an architect. He works with color designs and lighting, featuring in many scenes odd proscenium arches. Richness of color and opulence distinguish his work.

Professor Hersey spoke in praise of the works of Mr. Livingston Platt, who had a certain lyrical charm with pastel colorings and an effect of wide spaces; of Mr. Granville Barker and Mr. Norman Wilkinson; of David Belasco, that great master of the naturalistic movement in America; and of Walter Hampden, whose new setting of *Hamlet* was such a fine example of simplification of settings where the action and art of the players showed to advantage against simple hangings of neutral toned curtains.

The new movement tends to create effects in illusion and the present-day tendency is to be bizarre and startling and to distract the audience from the play. The result is that the actor loses his predominance on the stage and is dwarfed by the background, a condition to be deplored, for after all, "the play itself is the thing."

The lecture was profusely illustrated by stereopticon slides ably manipulated by Mr. William Brewster.

After the lecture refreshments were served. Dancing ended a most pleasurable evening. Mr. Frank H. Chase, Chairman, assisted by Miss Helen Schubarth, Miss Beatrice Flanagan, Miss Elizabeth McShane and Mr. Zoltán Haraszti comprised the Committee in charge.

M. A. M.

WITHOUT PENSION.

The past month witnessed the removal from the Library of a veteran worker, an engine-driven generator, which has been in use for thirty-four years. This operated your elevator and was glad to give you a lift on the morning when you were "Oh — oh, so tired!" This was the friend which brightened the corner each evening at the turn of a switch; always at your command to light your way. In summer this old friend set desk fans humming. LIBRARY LIFE was chased through the presses, by the energy created by this same machine.

When originally installed in 1891 it was a masterpiece from a mechanical standpoint. Designed by M. E. D. Leavitt, a genius of his time, it survived him by about four years. The engine was built to order by I. P. Morris, Camden, New Jersey, and the generator by Siemens-Halske, a German concern.

This engine was perhaps the bulkiest creature within our walls. It weighed about sixty tons. To depart from the Library intact was not its fate, however, for lurking beneath its smooth-working surface, was an insidious case of mechanical fatigue. About eight per cent of the cross sectional area of an eight-inch shaft was effective, the remaining ninety-two per cent being broken away by molecular friction.

The shaft carried for its burden a wheel weighing twelve tons and a generator of two tons, revolving one hundred and twenty-five revolutions per minute for an average of fifteen hours a day. The rim speed of the wheel was one mile a minute and the wheel weighed twelve tons. Therefore, if the shaft had broken completely there would have been an accident which would have landed the Boston Public Library on the front page of every paper in the country.

The rim of the wheel averaged nine hundred miles a day for the past thirty-four years, so you see Cook's Tours are not really worth while. The engine is now resting on the banks of

the Neponset River among other mechanical wrecks waiting to be summoned to the great melting pot. There it will be given new life, and who knows but Henry may get it. Think how many "Lizzies" he could make from sixty tons!

A duplicate engine is still operating, but without a running mate it seems lonesome. Fortunately, however, and wisely too, the day is not far distant when this condition will be remedied.

W. F. Q.

THE BOWDITCH EXHIBITION.

The exhibition arranged in honor of the birthday of Nathaniel Bowditch attracted much attention on the part of scholars and students of mathematics. Thirty-three volumes of Bowditch manuscripts, first editions of his own works, and a large number of the rarer items of the Collection, were displayed in the Exhibition Room and the Barton Room.

Among the Bowditch manuscripts, the translation of Laplace's "*Mécanique Céleste*" is the most interesting. The three large albums of correspondence contain many valuable autograph letters by both American and foreign celebrities. Among the printed books are copies of the first edition of the "*American Practical Navigator*," which is quite rare today. It is worthy of note that the initial collection, given to the Library in 1858, comprised only 2542 volumes, while the collection now numbers over 8500 books. This growth has been made possible by the income of a fund given by J. Ingersoll Bowditch. During nearly a half century, over twenty thousand dollars have thus been spent on the expansion of the collection, and the Library has used the sum with care and discrimination.

On April 6, Professor H. W. Tyler, of the Massachusetts Institute of Technology, Professor Ralph Beatley, of Harvard University, and Mr. W. F. Downey, Principal of the English High School — all three members of the advisory committee on the Collection — visited the exhibition and expressed themselves well-pleased with its variety.

A class of Professor Robert E. Bruce, of Boston University, also visited the exhibition. Several of the students are writing their bachelor theses on our Bowditch Collection or its more important items.

BLUE AND BURNISHED GOLD.

Of all the relics of the Middle Ages which have been preserved to our time, none possess a greater interest than illuminated manuscripts. They appeal to us especially because many of them are devotional works inspired by deep religious faith, and the illustrations supply authentic records of religious observances and habits of domestic life.

The Boston Public Library is fortunate in owning several notable illuminated manuscripts. Of these the "*Histoire Universelle*" and a Latin Bible are among the finest. They are both of the 15th century, and are wonderful examples of skilful composition and the most exquisite finish.

The "*Histoire Universelle*" is a manuscript scroll on vellum. It is a history of the world from the rather uncertain beginning to the end of the 14th century. The roll is 39 feet long, and the text is in mediaeval French, written on 16 sheets, each about 26 inches long and 19 inches wide.

"Here follows the Biblical genealogy," reads the first sentence, "which shows and tells how long each age lasted from the creation of the world to the advent of Jesus Christ . . . with the popes, emperors, kings of Jerusalem, Kings of France and Kings of England till the year 1380."

There are 59 painted and illuminated miniatures placed in squares and circles. Their colors are splendid, conveying with strange vividness a delicate feeling of nature and reality. The drawing, though inaccurate, shows a fine sense of perspective. We have satisfactory evidence that the finest miniatures of the time were taken from living models. This manuscript scroll is unique and one of the most interesting objects in our collection.

The Bible is an English manuscript on vellum, containing Calendar,

Psalms, Canticles, Litany and Collects. The text is enclosed in borders of ivy leaf design, which at that time was the prevailing mode of decoration. There are eight beautifully illuminated initials, the whole—borders, margins and capitals—colored in vermilion, blue and burnished gold, presenting a rich mass of color and artistic elaboration.

Both these manuscripts were bought for the Library by S. G. Cockerell of London; the "*Histoire Universelle*" was one of the treasures of the Barrois Collection, belonging to the Earl of Ashburnham.

Looking at these precious manuscripts, one can but sigh that modern book-making has produced nothing to equal these durable old parchments and vellums, with their decorations in burnished gold and fadeless colors. They may be examined at any time in the Barton Room. M. L. C.

THE RING: A REFERENCE ROMANCE.

This is the story of a girl, a ring, and a — but let me first explain. The true reference assistant will always play up the personal element in reference work; when books fails, he seeks to "let George do it."

On a recent evening, when the charming young woman inquired for the popular attendant, the man on duty answered: "He has gone home; is there anything I can do?"

"Well, can you translate Chinese?"

"No, but if you will wait a moment, I believe I can find a reader who will try. Would that be agreeable to you?"

"Yes, certainly. I have this ring, and I wish very much to know the meaning of the inscription."

"Very well. Won't you take a seat? I will return in a moment."

The attendant proceeded down the hall, taking mental note of the unconscious candidates, rejecting one as too youthful, another because he was doing a cross-word, and a third for no reason at all. At last — call it luck if you will — he found a Chinese youth of apparent poise, who consented at once to come and look at the ring.

As they drew near, the young

woman smiled visibly at the success of the experiment and handed the ring to the student. He said at once that it was a gift ring for a man, having, as is usual in China, a complimentary inscription, in this case meaning "Virtue and Brilliancy."

We await the next chapter. Too often Virtue and Brilliancy are left to be their own reward. L. E. T.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

The regular monthly meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston was held on March 30th in Jacob Sleeper Hall, Boston University. After a short business meeting, the President introduced as the speaker Mr. Godfrey Dewey, President of the International Institute of Bibliography, who told in a most interesting manner of the plan for a world center of organized coöperation in intellectual work. The first step in the development of this plan was taken when the International Institute of Bibliography was founded in 1895 for the preparation and maintenance of a universal bibliographical catalogue covering works of all times, all topics and all countries, classed by author and subject. As a result of coöperation among all European countries and to a very slight degree from this country, the catalogue now contains twelve and one-half million cards. For a number of years the International Institute of Bibliography has published the European edition of the decimal classification.

The most important step was taken in the same year when the Union of International Associations was founded. This includes international organizations of every kind. By 1913 about 250 associations had joined and while the Union suffered severely during the war, it is coming up again now.

The International Institute of Bibliography has been recognized by the League of Nations as its official bibliographical organization and granted a small appropriation. Also a Committee on International Coöperation has been appointed by the League.

E. M. T.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

WILLIAM R. BREWSTER	HARRY W. MATHEWS
WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM	MARION A. MCCARTHY
ZOLTÁN HARASZTI	MARY E. PRIM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY	HARRIET SWIFT
LUCIEN E. TAYLOR	

Vol. IV, No. 7.

April 15, 1925

Editor-in-Charge for this issue, Mary E. Prim.

The shocking news of Mr. Sargent's sudden death comes as LIBRARY LIFE goes to press. We shall hope to devote considerable space in the May issue to his illustrious career and his connection with the Library.

CUTTING THE COAT.

Every spring the same question haunts Director and Trustees: "Will the Library coat this year be ample or scanty?" Every year the Library budget is made up with great care, and then every detail which looks at all lavish is pruned away; we know we can't afford the latest styles, nor expensive materials, and we at last reluctantly decide that the garment must go practically untrimmed. So the budget, as finally sent in, is cut down to cover absolute needs, and nothing more. And then the Library — not merely Director and Trustees, but every employee — waits. Shall we get what we really need, in order to maintain and slightly extend our service? Or shall we have to be content with a jacket, instead of a coat?

This is the position in which a great institution of public service, which is without large invested funds of its own, annually finds itself. We are deeply grateful for every dollar of the \$24,205 which came to the Library from its trust funds last year; but this amount was only 1/35 of the entire sum required to run the institution. The City's contribution of \$828,567

looks large, in the lump; but we who know of the scores of points at which the Library has to cut corners are painfully aware of the limitations of this income, spread out, as it must be, over the 32 libraries of the system.

Until the trust funds are greatly increased by the gifts of public-spirited citizens — and may the increase come soon! — every expense of the Library, including the purchase of books, is dependent on the fluctuations of City finance; and every spring we are all on the anxious seat, while the size of the City appropriation is being determined. New equipment for the buildings — and we all know, the whole city now knows, how desperate is the need for this; a supply of books such as is essential to meet the reasonable demands of the public; more adequate salaries for the staff; improved service in many directions, such as we dream of in our better moments; how many of these things shall we be able to have, even in small measure, this year? How many of the promises held out to staff and to public can be kept? Will the coat be comfortable, or must it again, as last year, and year before, and year before that, be skimped and thin?

We are all inclined at times to reproach the Library authorities for not doing this or that, which we think they ought to do. It is a pleasure to make fine clothes out of unlimited supplies of material. The Trustees and the Director are waiting, as usual, hoping for a generous appropriation; but the Legislature has cut down the tax-rate from that of last year, the City has few new sources of income, and the Budget Commissioner — so we are told by the papers — is busy scaling down the estimates to meet the reduced funds in sight. We are all hoping, with the Trustees and the Director. But we are dependent on forces beyond our control. The garment must be cut to fit the cloth supplied — not, unhappily, to fit the body which is to wear it.

It is a pretty problem which has been raised by the action of the Benefit Association, at its annual meeting, in instructing the Credit Committee to

go ahead and lend money to the members. The Constitution of the Association seems to forbid — at least it is very far from authorizing—any such use of the funds. May an ordinary vote of the Association take precedence over the Constitution at any time? And what limits — aside from the Constitution — are set upon the action of the Treasurer? Suppose a meeting of the Association should vote, not to lend, but to give away funds?

On the whole, the trouble of amending the Constitution is worth taking, when the propriety of a desired action is in doubt.

A. L. A.

NEWS AND NOTES.

The complete list of nominees for officers of the Association for the coming year is as follows: President, Charles F. D. Belden, Librarian, Public Library, Boston; First Vice-President, Mrs. Elizabeth Claypool Earl, President, Indiana Public Library Commission, Muncie, Ind.; Second Vice-President (one to be elected), Johnson Brigham, Librarian, State Library, Des Moines, Iowa, and Theodore W. Koch, Librarian, Northwestern University Library, Evanston, Ill.; Treasurer, Edward D. Tweedell, Assistant Librarian, The John Crerar Library, Chicago, Ill.

*

The election will take place at the 47th annual meeting of the American Library Association to be held in Seattle, July 6-11, at the Olympic Hotel. An attendance of approximately 1000 librarians, library trustees, and others is expected.

*

The chief topics for consideration at the conference will be: (1) The extension of library service to the sixty million people of the United States who still have none; (2) Adult education work of libraries; (3) Education for librarianship; (4) School libraries. Besides general sessions there will be more than fifty meetings of special groups and affiliated organizations: County librarians, business librarians, cataloguers, hospital librarians, law librarians, children's librarians, library trustees, the Bibliographical Society of America, the National Association of State Libraries, etc.

* * *

The A. L. A. is conducting a library survey, the funds for which are generously supplied by the Carnegie Corporation. "How libraries are being administered, and what methods are being followed in all the numerous forms of library service, is the subject of investigation . . ."

Replies are now being received in every mail from public and college libraries all over the country, to which an elaborate questionnaire has been sent, inquiring into every important detail concerning their organization, administration, and service. The director and his staff are now engaged in studying and tabulating these replies, that all the information obtained may be incorporated in the published reports of the investigation. These reports it is planned to have published prior to the annual conference of the American Library Association in 1926, when the Association will observe its semi-centennial. The reports will not be purely statistical . . . but will consist mainly of carefully prepared statements of existing conditions and facts in all forms of library work. The committee does not propose to make recommendations or to attempt to set up ideal standards, but merely to report the facts. The object of the Survey is to make available for all the experience of all, and to make it possible for future development in library service to be based on full and accurate knowledge of the facts.

The Survey covers all types of library in all the states, Hawaii, Porto Rico, the Philippines, Alaska, and includes a number of libraries in Canada. This seems to be the era of surveys: "scientific," social, economic, intellectual. For the first time in history, Man has set systematically about collecting all the facts about each of the many aspects of his environment. For the first time in history, Society as a whole has been able to support the vast number of workers necessary for such surveys. But of them all, none, we venture to say, will be of greater value than this of the A. L. A., aimed as it is to promote the efficiency, prestige, and capacity for service, of our libraries, public and private.

*

Questionnaires for the survey have been received by the Office and distributed to all the heads of departments. We hope, next month, to be able to publish a full report of these returns, so that our readers may know the results of the survey in the B. P. L.

NEWS NOTES.

At the meeting on April 27th, the Staff Club will present two plays — "Followers," by Harold Brighthouse, and "The Maker of Dreams," by Oliphant Down — and an original burlesque. Owing to the length of the performance, the curtain will rise at 8.00 p.m. promptly. All members are urgently requested to be on time.

Mr. Belden addressed the literature and legislative committees of the State Federation of Women's Clubs at the Hotel Vendome on April 2. He spoke of the scope and activities of the State Division of Public Libraries and the condition and needs of the Boston Public Library.

At the meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston, on March 2d, Mr. Richard Appel gave an illustrated lecture on the evolution of musical instruments.

Miss Carolyn Smith, chorus girl of the "Kid Boots" company, did not forget the Library when searching for a way of achieving matrimony quickly. She wished to get married at once, on the plea that a beautiful bunch of orchids she had received would not keep five days, and wanted to know if this were possible in either Rhode Island or Connecticut. Sad to say, the Reference Department had to tell her that those states have put up the bars on after-supper weddings.

Miss Ethel Bret Harte, daughter of the famous author, recently took out a library card.

On March 19th, Mr. Zoltán Haraszti lectured at Harvard before Professor Richard Cabot's graduate seminar in Social Ethics. "Hungarian life and national characteristics" was his subject. The lecture, which occupied a two-hour period, was well received.

On March 28, Mr. Gustave Rosenfeld, one of the officers attached to the Central Library, celebrated his fortieth

anniversary as a member of the Boston Police Department. An excellent article on the occasion, accompanied by a picture, appeared in the *Boston Globe* of that date. It is interesting to note that Officer Rosenfeld was the first man of the Jewish race to become a member of the Boston Police Force.

The Library was recently visited by two enthusiastic bodies of students: on March 30, a group of forty from the School of the New York Public Library, under the conduct of Miss Higgins and Miss Fenton; and on the following day, the pupils of the Pratt Institute Library School, led by Miss Rathbone. Both groups were addressed by Mr. Belden in the Trustees' Room, after which they were conducted over the Library. Cordial letters of appreciation have since been received from the directors of both schools.

Additions and improvements for the convenience of the public include a light of suitable size and power which has been placed over the telephone books in the lower hall of the Library. Thanks to the efficiency of the department of buildings, it is now possible to find one's number with dispatch and accuracy, and thus one more hazard between the subscriber and his "party" is eliminated.

Mr. John J. O'Brien of the Bindery (our own Irving Berlin) has two more popular songs before the public, "Philipina Coola" and "Sally's Coming Home." Mr. O'Brien recently won a case of Pear's Soap and a case of breakfast food for writing the best limerick in a radio contest conducted by Billy B. Van.

On the afternoon of March 14, the front hall of the Library was invaded by what looked like the chorus of *opera bouffe*. In marched forty-five handsome young men clad in cream colored tunics over baggy breeches; high leather boots glistening; red caps crowned with peacock feathers. One

gasped and waited for the Waltz song from "The Chocolate Soldier." The picturesque visitors proved to be members of the Polish National Orchestra, who were sight-seeing around Boston before playing that evening in Symphony Hall.

Mr. Horace L. Wheeler, chief of the Statistical Department, has come forward nobly and admitted his responsibility for the recent earthquake. It appears that Mr. Wheeler had borrowed the famous Hope diamond for the week-end, in order to compare it with his own magnificent collection. During a lull in the evening's work, he removed the jewel from his pocket. Instantly the building shook to its foundations and a file of the U. S. Census Reports fell to the floor with a terrific crash. Mr. Wheeler had presence of mind enough to fling the gem into the waste basket, and the earthquake ceased. This is the latest of a long series of catastrophes which has followed the possessors of the fatal blue Hope Diamond.

Botanists all over the country will mourn the destruction of the courtyard trees. The long controversy as to what kind of trees they were now comes to an end. Some insisted they were açanthus trees; others called them sumach. No one really knew, except the trees themselves; and sometimes even they looked a little uncertain. Their secret died with them.

VACATION.

Only six days of last year's vacation may be carried over for next summer's outings. All days over six, of 1924 vacation, must be used before May 1, 1925.

Now's your chance to fight off Spring Fever with a few days in the open.

LAST CALL.

From the Boston Retirement Board comes the following notice to officials and employees of the City of Boston and County of Suffolk: "Under the provisions of a recent Act of the Legis-

lature any employee of the City of Boston or County of Suffolk who has not yet become a member of the Boston Retirement System may join the system provided that he was on February 1, 1923, a regular and permanent employee as defined in the act and that he has continued to be and now is such an employee.

"The application to join the system must be made on a blank form which may be obtained at the office of the Boston Retirement Board, Room 22, City Hall, and must be filed in said office on or before June 30, 1925."

BRANCH NEWS.

Twenty-four Branch assistants have enrolled for the course in Binding and Mending Methods, given by Miss Marion A. McCarthy, in conjunction with instruction in Library Lettering by Miss Hilda Baker.

Miss McCarthy's course is much more intensive than in the past. Starting with the evolution of the book, it touches upon historical bindings, illustrated examples in our Fine Arts Department, treats of the physical make-up of the printed book, with examples of commercial and library bindings, and includes a class visit to the Boston Public Library Bindery.

Following instruction in the historical, artistic and material knowledge of the book, the care of the books in the Library is stressed, with demonstrations of modern methods of practical repair work.

Miss Hilda Baker is continuing the course in Library Lettering for Branch assistants, which was conducted with such success last year by Miss Eleanor Mulcahey. We are all familiar with the attractive posters which Miss Baker has made for use in the Branch Libraries.

The following quotation is from a letter received by the Supervisor of Branches from Mrs. May Lamberton Becker: "That lecture that I gave to the Librarians of Branches appeared in the February *Pictorial Review*, and as a result I had to answer 424 letters that month. It was really very much

what everyone seems to want. It looks as if I would have to go on with the series longer than I had at first planned."

Mr. and Mrs. Joseph O'Regan are the proud parents of a daughter, Rosemary, who was born March 30, 1925. Mrs. O'Regan, formerly Miss Mary F. Kelley, was librarian at Upham's Corner Branch before her marriage.

ANDREW SQUARE: Miss McShane has at present in the window of the library a miniature kitchen scene. The mother is engaged in taking a cake from the oven, while the child waits expectantly, seated at a little table on which is displayed a set of toy dishes. Around the stove and table are grouped cook books — or we should say "were grouped," as we are informed by Miss McShane that everything on the subject of cooking has gone out, owing to her successful advertising.

BOYLSTON: Miss Nickerson reports that a collection of books for teachers, which had not moved for many months, immediately went into circulation after being put on display in one of the Branch windows.

NORTH END: "Our little house is a friendly house."

For our house is a doll's house of six rooms and a sleeping porch, complete in every detail, and a garden with a see-saw and a slide. There are French doors opening onto the red-tiled porch, and window boxes with flowers blooming, as well as radiators and open fire-places for heating this wonderful house.

The standing lamps, the bust of Shakespeare, the grandfather's clock, the bird cages and the nursery completely furnished, even to toys for the baby doll to play with, attract most attention. Then there is the mother of this family in her room reclining on a *chaise-longue* and a group having dinner in the dining room with a coffee service on the table.

It is hard to tell just what pleases most, for the ecstasy of the children is so spontaneous. One little girl cried excitedly, "Oh, it's lovely — lots of it," and a little boy wanted to know if the radio could sing.

The house is a good example for civic training; it was made by students of the Garland School for Home Making, and loaned to the library by that school.

ROSLINDALE: The walls of Roslindale Branch have been painted. The pictures are now being washed, and when everything is in order the place will look like new.

TYLER STREET: Books and their contents are often best advertised by visual means. For this reason, posters and an exhibition have been prepared to advertise the Greek collection at Tyler Street. A hand-woven bag of brilliant hues, a pillow-slip, cross-stitched in red, and a pestle and mortar of hammered brass are a few of the articles from Greece that enliven the exhibition case. These have been kindly loaned by the pupils of St. John's Church, who visited the library with their teacher, Mr. Gogales, on Thursday, April 2d. The children enjoyed seeing books in their native language, and, of course, the juvenile stories were very popular. Many compliments have been heard about our effective posters, which urge the Greek-Americans to "renew their memories of the 'Glory that was Greece' in the Greek books."

UPHAM'S CORNER: The shelving has been removed from the former children's room and placed around the walls of the tank room. When the furniture has been repaired, this old swimming pool will be a model children's room.

WARREN STREET: The circulation of the Yiddish books of this Branch was not all it should be, so it occurred to the librarian to apply "go-getter" publicity methods. A poster in Yiddish was her idea. Unfortunately no one on the staff was sufficiently up in that tongue to apply artistic efforts to it. Miss Flanagan, however, refused to be daunted. She got in touch with one of the Jewish patrons of the Branch and put her problem before him. Through his assistance a very attractive "Kosher" poster was made. And now, try and get your favorite Yiddish book at Warren Street!

THE OUTSIDE WIRE

WHAT OTHER LIBRARIES ARE DOING AND SAYING

"A fair exchange is no robbery"

Now that the Exchange Column is in full swing—though fortunately the editors still have one foot on the ground, else, as with the man who "swung" for murder, "the suspense would be awful"—we hope to be able to devote the requisite amount of time to showing our readers how the "other half" of the library world lives—and works. The response to our call for exchanges has been fair, for the moment adequate even, so that with a little patience we, too, can "conjure spirits from the vasty deep" of our exchange files and, with a little judicious cutting, force them to do our bidding. Like statistics, exchange columns can be made to prove nearly anything:

* * *

The first of these figures "not of earth, nor yet of Heaven" which our incense (or, perchance, our insults) have called forth is the *Community Bookshelf* of the Minneapolis Public Library. As its name indicates, it is designed to circulate among the "laity"—"outside" as well as "inside." To that end the *Bookshelf* adopted the following creed, which, we think, is well worthy of examination.

*

We believe in books.

We believe in a free opportunity to read them.

We believe in a library which supplies the opportunity.

We believe in people who support the library.

We believe in bringing the people and the library together.

We believe in good service when the people come.

We believe in advertising our service.

*

Of these articles of faith, the one on Advertising the Library is of particular interest. In Minneapolis, as elsewhere, there has sprung up a definite conviction that it is the duty of a public library to increase its patronage and to "develop the largest possible return to the people who have made a large investment in the equipment and maintenance of the library."

It is not good business to make such large investments as the taxpayers have made in the Public Library, which can return 100 per cent in pleasure, in broadened interests, in intelligence, in mental growth, and then not use the possible returns.

*

We believe that much greater returns on the investment might be claimed by the people of this city, in the shape of better citizenship, a more intelligent public, a better educated community, if the function of the public library were better understood by all the people.

*

The library is . . . a big school where books are made useful through trained assistants to the people who want to use them.

*

In view of the current interest in Adult Education, and of the country-wide campaign which the A. L. A. is now conducting in this field, it is significant to note that the above definition of a public library was written, and the movement which it inaugurated in Minneapolis was begun, in March of 1922. It is most pleasing to find that the West, too, is not "backward in good works."

* * *

Harassed Parent (at information desk):
I'd like to get "In Tune with the Infant."
(*The Page*, New York P. L.)

*

Cross-word puzzles are bringing people to the Library who never came before — to use the dictionaries, encyclopedias, etc. Many of them are taking application cards and many even ask what the charges are. It is evident that some are making new friends, too, for we watch them going off together discussing their finds. It is also fun to see how some of them try to disguise the fact that they are "fans." They put on a dignified air and ask for books on "foreign birds," or "eminent chemists."

(*Staff News*, Chicago P. L.)

Evidently Chicago has seen only the lighter side of crossworditis to date; but you just wait, Chicago!

*

Reader: I want a book for a high school boy.

Attendant: How about Fielding?

Reader: I dunno. Got anything on base-running?
(*Louisville Courier-Journal*.)

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

The Annual Meeting of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association was held in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library on Tuesday, April 7, 1925, with President Mooers in the Chair.

The minutes of the previous meeting and the reports of the various committees were read and approved. Upon motion, it was voted that Mr. Belden and Mr. Blaisdell be extended a vote of thanks for their generous donation to the Memorial Committee for the Dedication Exercises held in the courtyard on November 11, 1924. Mr. James W. Kenney then rose and gave a brief account of some new pension legislation which is now before the Legislature. Upon motion, it was voted that the past Pension Committee be appointed to serve again, with the addition of Mr. William F. A. Graham. Mr. Graham declined to serve. Mr. Kenney reported for the Credit Committee and submitted their plans. After some discussion it was voted that the plans of the Credit Committee be accepted and that it be authorized to begin operations at once. Upon motion, all the members present rose and stood silent for one minute as a mark of respect to the memory of the members who had died during the year.

It was then voted to proceed with the election of officers for the ensuing year. The President appointed as Ballot Committee: Miss Fuller, Miss Hovestadt, Mr. Swan, Mr. O'Hara, and Mr. Joseph Crowley. At two o'clock the Ballot Committee reported that the following members were elected to serve as officers for the year 1925-1926.

President: James S. Kennedy, Shelf Dept.
Vice-President: Frank H. Chase, Reference Librarian.

Secretary: James P. J. Gannon, Bindery.
Financial Secretary: Morris J. Rosenberg, Statistical Dept.

Treasurer: Frank C. Blaisdell, Issue Dept.
Board of Directors: James P. Mooers, Bindery.

Relief Committee:
William Clegg, Periodical Room.

Marion A. McCarthy, Branch Dept.
Katherine J. Collins, Bindery.
Welfare Committee:
George H. Connor, Shelf Dept.
William McGowan, Shelf Dept.
Margaret C. Sheridan, South End Branch.

At a meeting of the Board of Directors of the Benefit Association on Tuesday, April 14, the following appointments were made: To fill vacancies on the Welfare Committee, John J. Griffin, Engineering Dept., George W. Gallagher, Bindery; to fill vacancies on the Relief Committee, Joseph Crowley, Patent Room, William O'Hara, Ordering Dept.; and for the new Ways and Means Committee, Mr. Taylor, Catalogue Dept., Chairman, Miss McCarthy, Branch Dept., Miss Hovestadt, Bindery, Mr. Karrel, Executive Dept., and Mr. Blaisdell, Issue Dept., ex officio.

A representative of the Association was appointed for the coming year for every department and branch. Notices will soon be sent to such representatives. It is most important for the welfare of sick members that all cases of illness in their departments be promptly reported to the Secretary by the respective representatives.

At a meeting of the Relief Committee held April 15, 1925, Mr. William Clegg, Periodical Room, was elected Chairman.

SICK LIST.

Miss Julia Zaugg, Fine Arts Dept., Miss Annie Flynn, Bindery Dept., Miss Nellie Riley, Jamaica Plain Branch, and Miss Clara Maxwell, South End Branch, who are out ill, are the recipients of our good wishes this month.

Miss Ida Denny, North End Branch, Miss Anne Connolly, South Boston Branch, Miss Elizabeth Kelley, Jamaica Plain Branch, and Miss Isabel Wetherald, East Boston Branch, we are glad to note, have returned, refreshed, to their duties after several weeks of illness.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume IV, No. 8

May 15, 1925

CONTENTS.

	PAGE		PAGE
IN MEMORIAM	89	ANIMAL POSTERS	98
DON'T PARK HERE	91	QUEER QUERIES	98
MUSIC WEEK	91	LIBRARY MOVIES	99
STANDING ROOM ONLY	92	NEWS NOTES	100
BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	92	BRANCH NEWS	101
MR. DOOLEY TELLS OF HIS VISIT TO THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY	93	STAFF CLUB	102
SPRING FLITTING	95	THEOLOGICAL BOOKS	102
EDITORIALS	96	SICK LIST	102
A. L. A.	97	THE OUTSIDE WIRE	103
		MARATHON	104

IN MEMORIAM.

In an article contributed to the *Boston Transcript*, Mr. Thomas A. Fox, the Consulting Architect of the Boston Public Library, gave a sensitive characterization of John S. Sargent. Mr. Fox was an intimate friend of the artist, and the writing reveals a real insight into his personality; it reads almost as an expression of the views of Sargent himself:

High as Mr. Sargent stood in portraiture, and notwithstanding the fact that it has been said by many competent to judge that he would in the end be best known by his water colors, it may be truthfully set forth that so far as he himself was concerned his greatest interest lay in his decorations and the work incident to them. This work moreover was such as to bring out and accent the true qualities of the man, and so for this short appreciation there can be no better text in general than that afforded by this feature of his career. Happily, he had just completed his last undertaking except for the placing of the canvases and bas-reliefs and a few minor details.

A few more bits of Mr. Fox's fine article:

Of the qualities which made his personality what it was, a straightforward simplicity should be placed first. His sense of humor was fine, keen, and withal somewhat whimsical. His answer to applications for new portraits not long ago, "Say I am a physical and nervous wreck and can't answer letters," was not penned to be taken literally, it was merely a capricious ultimatum.

It was well-known by those who met Mr. Sargent outside the routine of his chosen profession, that his interest in music and his appreciation of it was undoubtedly of next importance to his accustomed work, and it has been often said by one of his closest friends, and one well qualified to judge, that if he had not been a great painter he might equally well have been as great a musician.

The books to be seen on the shelves of even his temporary abode were of unexpected and exceeding interest, and showed a range rarely found outside the quarters of a true bibliophile or the enthusiast in things unusual, but never abnormal. Books of travel were numerous and the file of a geographical magazine, primarily for the pictures, was kept intact so far as possible. But in addition to these were always to be found not only the standard fiction of foreign tongues, but also the works of the biographer, philosopher and poet.

John S. Sargent — 1856-1925: creator, draughtsman, painter — in the truest sense of the word a gentleman, but finally above all, and, as I firmly believe he himself would like best to be known, a master workman.

*

JOHN SINGER SARGENT EXHIBITION.

Many have come to the Exhibition Room during the past fortnight to view the material there presented to mark the passing of John Singer Sargent.

Mr. Walter Rowlands supervised the arrangement of the exhibition, and greatly enhanced its interest by loans from his rich store of material by and about Mr. Sargent, material which

represents years of diligent collecting. As Mr. Sargent apparently devoted considerable energy to the task of evading that in which so many lesser men delighted,—being interviewed and “lionized,” — such personal and anecdotal bits as we have are the more welcome.

Mr. Belden augmented the exhibition by selections from his personal collection, among which is an excellent portrait of the artist, done in pencil by Raymond M. Crosby.

Other material loaned includes: a reproduction of the portrait-sketch of Mr. Niederauer, which Mr. Sargent presented to him in response to a request for an autograph, loaned by Miss Deery; a reproduction of a charcoal drawing, the original of which was presented to Miss Macurdy by the Guild of Boston Artists; and several excellent photographs of Mr. Sargent which Mr. Havelock Pierce took in London, shortly before Mr. Sargent's death.

The Library exhibited the books which have been written about Mr. Sargent, many reproductions of his famous portraits, and reproductions of the murals in the Boston Museum of Fine Arts.

Of the few manuscripts shown, one is of interest, being the courteous refusal to paint the portrait of a queen; another is an outline of the aims and ideals portrayed in some of the murals here in the Library; and a third is a letter which Mr. Morris J. Rosenberg received from Mr. Sargent thanking him for assistance with Hebraic texts.

*

M. R. B.

MR. NIEDERAUER RECOLLECTS.

One day, a good many years ago, when Mr. Sargent's work on a portion of the Library's mural decorations was nearly completed, he and Mr. Niederauer were standing in the Barton Library. Mr. Sargent asked for a piece of paper. It was not an easy thing to find, there, a piece of paper. Books were plenty, so were maps, prints, even pencils and call-slips, but not a sheet of paper. Mr. Niederauer was somewhat at a loss. He turned to the Music Room. By good luck Miss Marguerite Barton, who was then custo-

dian, had a block of writing paper in her desk.

Back in the North Gallery, with the block of paper in hand, Mr. Sargent sat down at one of the long tables, the one nearest to the arch opening from the Barton Library into the Gallery, and began to talk. He asked Mr. Niederauer, who was sitting opposite him, to tell him about the Abbeys. When had they been in the Library last? Did Mrs. Abbey come? Had she said anything about him, Mr. Sargent? After a quarter of an hour or so, he looked up from the paper, said something about its being all right, he believed, and handed it across the table. It was a sketch of Mr. Niederauer, drawn, signed and given to him by Mr. Sargent. You could see it in one of the glass cases at our recent Sargent Exhibition.

Mr. Niederauer, who retired from active service in the Library some months ago, came here as head of the Engineering Department in 1894. Already Mr. Abbey was at work on the walls of the Delivery Room. Mr. Sargent followed within the year with the “Prophet Frieze,” the first of the decorations which were installed in Sargent Hall. At Trinity Church was John LaFarge. Mr. McKim, of McKim, Mead and White, was at the Library constantly. The work which Mr. Sargent began in 1895 was continued at intervals. His second visit came in 1902-03; the last was in 1917. These are the years that Mr. Niederauer likes best to recall.

In all that had to be done to facilitate Mr. Sargent's work — and there was staging to be erected, means devised for carrying out this or that idea, experiments tried, adjustments arranged — Mr. Niederauer was fortunate in being able to accomplish what he did with the least possible friction. Besides the mechanical aids, he took upon himself attention to personal comforts, saw to it that clean towels were provided in abundance, that doors accessible to a prying public were always kept locked, that other doors leading to convenient short-cuts had their locks removed. He developed the habit of listening with appreciation when Mr. Sargent was disposed to be

talkative, as he often was when they were alone, and finally he had the ability to assist in removing the wrappings from a work of art in the presence of its creator and to say nothing. "I remember seeing him when those packing cases from Europe were brought up to the Lecture Hall," said Mr. Niederauer. The customs officials were there, and Mr. Sargent in shirt-sleeves and smoking countless cigarettes, was cursing the delay. "He and I unpacked those two, the 'Church' and the 'Synagogue' and set them up on the stage before anyone else saw them." Once his valet whispered that the Bishop was coming that afternoon for a sitting. And Mr. Niederauer watched the making of a portrait sketch from its beginning.

"Since 1917? Let me see!" Mr. Niederauer looked thoughtful. "It must have been when that bust of Henry James was brought over from England. Mr. Sargent had suggested placing it in the Library. He and Mr. Belden and Mr. Fox were upstairs together talking about where to put it. That, I think, was the last time I ever saw him."

C. H.

DON'T PARK HERE.

"Jordan am a hard road to trabbel." Likewise Huntington Avenue, near the Library. Automobiles park everywhere; they edge in or dash along, regardless of the fact that trolley cars are stopping, adding new crowds to the waiting multitude. If we wait beside the track, we have to vibrate back and forth to avoid the Scylla of getting knocked over by the street car and the Charybdis of suffering pretty much the same fate from the motor car.

At last, we petitioned the Company for some alleviation of the condition, suggesting a row of posts to set off a small waiting-space beside the car track. The net result of our labors is a decorative white streak on the pavement forbidding parking for a rod or so along the sidewalk. This gives a modicum of aid and comfort, but the place remains a dangerous one to board a trolley car. Perhaps it is to protect people from this danger that in evening

rush hours no Jamaica Plain car will stop here, but would-be passengers must first get themselves to Arlington Street or beyond Massachusetts Avenue. We had fondly imagined that Copley Square was quite a center. The view of the street car company evidently differs from ours. M. A. T.

MUSIC WEEK.

Boston's second Music Week has come and gone, and if the traces are not so evident in the Library as they were last year, when the headquarters were located here, still the attractive posters and the musical events in the Lecture Hall were constant reminders. The Library took official cognizance of Music Week by issuing a list of "Popular Volumes on Music." This list was compiled from titles mentioned by famous musicians and educators who were asked to name books which would quicken the average person's musical perceptions and reveal to him new musical beauties. Among those from whose votes the list was compiled were: Margaret Anderton, Ernest Bloch, Artur Bodanzky, George W. Chadwick, Frank Damrosch, Carl Engel, Amelita Galli-Curci, Pierre Monteux, Leopold Stokowski, Gustav Strube.

Among the musical events in the Library were the concert of the Lincoln House Orchestra, Jacques Hoffman, conductor; an All-American Programme on Sunday afternoon by Miss Myrtle Jordan, soprano and pianist; and a Concert on Sunday evening by the Peabody House Orchestra, Russell Cook, conductor.

One of the features of Music Week was the presentation at the Fine Arts Theatre of "Musical Mosaics" or Incidents in the Lives of Great Composers. The characters were taken by noted Boston musicians. Mr. Appel, of the Music Division, impersonated Schubert. Mrs. Catherine S. Swett, the author, deserves great credit for the success which the production achieved.

Representing the City of Boston in the Civic Music Festival were Director Belden and Mr. Appel.

STANDING ROOM ONLY.

It may have been the inherent liking for "dressing up" and "pretending"; it may have been the rumor that there was to be another Dooley skit; or it may have been the promise of a romantic ending to one of the plays that brought out a record audience — one hundred and twenty-five — for the evening of plays at the Staff Club meeting of April 24. There *was* a crowd, at times more standing than seated, and even those who spent the evening on tiptoe were "glad they came."

The two short plays were delightfully staged and presented. We acknowledge gratefully the skill and experience of our stage-manager, who can create a charming cottage out of a couple of dust sheets and a thumb-tack. The difficulties of staging and costuming can't be described; it is enough to say that the curtain went up promptly.

The first play, "Followers," by Harold Brighouse, reproduced beautifully the atmosphere of Cranford, with Miss Prim as Miss Lucinda, Mr. William Clegg as Colonel Redfern, Miss Mary Galvin as Helen, and Miss Harriet Kelleher as Susan, the maid happy in the thought of a follower. Miss Prim's interpretation of Miss Lucinda's rejection of the second wooing of the Colonel was full of delicate shadings. Miss Jordan coached the play.

The entr'acte was devoted to the election of the Nominating Committee: Miss Curley, Miss Deery, and Mr. Chase are the new members.

The second play, "The Maker of Dreams," by Oliphant Down, was a fanciful presentation of Pierrot and Pierrette against a domestic background. A fairy godfather, whose vocation was symbolized in the bow and arrow which he carried, entered the troubled scene and opened the eyes of restless Pierrot to the charms of Pierrette and to the fact that he could find love at his own fireside. The play closed with a successfully interrupted kiss. Working with excellent material, Mr. Brewster produced a play that will be remembered for its poetry, grace and lightness. The difficulties

of Pierrot (Mr. Oscar Karrel) and Pierrette (Miss Frances Blake) were solved with subtlety by the Maker of Dreams (Mr. Zoltán Haraszti). Pierrette was true-hearted and touching in her infinite sorrow; and Pierrot was clever, quick and egotistic, as Pierrots usually are.

Refreshments — a most marvelous punch and cookies of divers kinds — were served before the burlesque. Mr. Dooley (Mr. Winthrop H. Chenery) and Mr. Hennessey (Mr. Christopher Conlin) discussed philosophically an account of Hogan's visit to the Boston Public Library. Mr. Dooley's sly hits at the minor weaknesses of the library aroused great merriment. The dialogue was interrupted from time to time by vaudeville turns in which the Three Wonderful Waltons (Messrs. Lee Dunn, Thomas Manning, Oscar Karrel), the Wish Sisters (Misses Helen Schubarth and Edith von Schoppe) and the Stack Four Chorus (Misses Helen Schubarth, Ruth Hayes, Florence De Luca, Minna Steinberg and Ethel Hazelwood) rendered amusing songs in celebration of familiar library foibles. The Stack Four Chorus, with four ukeleles which were constantly passed from hand to hand, excelled in its song, "The Stack Four Blues," although the gyrations of the Wonderful Waltons will probably be remembered quite as long. H. S.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

A special meeting of the Association is called for Wednesday, May 20, at 12.05 o'clock, in the Lecture Hall, to decide on the following matters:

1. That the Credit Committee shall accept no further applications for loans of money, but shall continue to exercise its function in respect to loans already made, according to the vote of the Association at its meeting held April 7, 1925.
2. That the Constitution be amended by the addition of the following section to Article X to read: "Article X. Section 7. The Association shall lend no more money to any of its members."

Fashionably dressed young lady: "Was it O'Keefe that wrote the 'Imitation of Christ'?"

MR. DOOLEY TELLS OF HIS VISIT TO THE BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY.

Scene: — Mr. Dooley's well known soft-drink parlor on Archie Road.

Characters: — Mr. Dooley. Mr. Hennessy.

Hennessy: It's a long time, Dooley, since we've sayn ye in Archie Road.

Dooley: And, sure, did ye not know that I've been visitin' at the Hub?

H. What Hub do ye mane?

D. The Hub of the worrld, of coorse, the cinter of larnin' an' coolcher. I thought ye knew that my frind Hogan had moved to Boston where he can live in the comp'ny of his aykals in iddicaation an' coolcher.

H. An' what might a low-brow like yersilf be doin' in such comp'ny?

D. Nivver ye mind that, Hinnessy. A fine place is Boston, an' sure 'tis a wondherful pooblic lib'ry they have.

H. I've hearrd 'tis a shplindid buildin'.

D. I'll say it is, Hinnessy. Ye enter the huge structer through small wooden dures with glass panels an' far less iligant than the dures of me modest drinkin' plaace but behind these chape dures is others of bronze so hivvy that two min can harddly open wan of thim. Thin ye arre in a spaacious vistibule lined with marrble like the lobby of an office buildin' in the Loop.

"Do ye obsarve," sez Hogan, "this shplindid pavemint inlaid in brass with the signs of the Zodiac?"

"I do," sez I, "and more's the pity they had not marrble to go around an' were compilled to fill out the pathern with gray cimint."

"The cimint," say Hogan, "is only for repairrs an' if ye were bettther bred, ye would not shpake of such a trifle."

Thin we wint up a grrand flight of shtairs decorated with playsin' paintin's be a Frinchman whose naame I cannot raymimber.

H. Ye mane that ye cannot prronounce it, Dooley?

D. Nivver ye mind, Hinnessy. 'Tis all the saame. An' on the shtairs there were many visitors raydin' the descriptions on carrds of the pitchers that

intintly they had not anny time to look at the paintin's thimselves. "Will, Dooley," sez Hogan, "as ye arre not faymiliar with alleygorry, ye will doubtless find the paintin's in the Deliv'ry Room more inthrestin'."

Saying that, he led me by the hand into a fine big room where there was a small crowd of payple sittin' in the darrk.

"Lave me get out of here," sez I, "It wad be a sin for me to be prisint at a Spirichoolistic maytin."

"Kape shtill," sez Hogan. "The darkness incrayses the myshtery of the pitchers an' augmint's theirr poitic if-fict, if ye can say thim at all."

Just thin an attendant in an inner room that was not so darrk yelled "Abrahamsky," an' an' ayger discindant of the Pilgrgrims cautiously fild his way acrost the darrk room an' rissaved a book that was handed out to him.

"Sayse yer whisperin'," sez I to Hogan. "Mebbe they will call for Dooley-vitch. I am anxious to say what kind of a prize I'll be drawin' from the lib'ry colliction."

"Payple of taste," sez Hogan, "do not come here to dhraw books but to shtudy the wall-paintin's of the Howly Graal. They are verra wondherful."

"That they may be," sez I, "but on-forchnitly not possessin' th' eyes of an owl, I cannot say thim."

"It is not considher'd niciss'ry that ye should say thim," sez Hogan, "for if ye have th' price ye can buy ixcellent rayproduech's of thim at th' counther outside."

Thin we passed into an immiinse hall as big as the waitin' room of a firrst class railway therminal.

"This is called," sez Hogan, "the han'somist raydin' room in th' worrld."

"Do they nivver wash the windows?" I asked.

"They are so monumintally con-

shtructed that they cannot," sez he. "The dirrt that is incrusted upon the glass gives an iffict of aage that is much admired."

"There is no accountin' for taastes," sez I.

Thin he condhoocted me into a room that was fitted up for small childer with wee tables an' chairrs.

"I am showin' ye here," sez he, "th' original orrthogrraph of Gov'nor Button that is worrth forrtayn thousan' dollarrs."

"Not anny butthon is worrth that much," sez I.

"Let us taake the illivaator to the nixt floor," sez Hogan.

Whin we rayched the thirrd florr th' illivaator man obligin'ly opened a shmall dure into a tiny closet. I shtipped out an' bumped into a lady that was imptying a pail of suds into a sink.

"Excuse me," sez I, "I am getting off at the wrong floorr."

"Not at all," says th' illivaator attindant, "Turrin to yer right, I mane to yer lift and thin to yer right," sez he.

Followin' thase timely inshtrooc-tions, I bumped harrd into an ilderrly gintleman that was hurryin' to rache th' illivaator bayfore it wint down agin.

"I beg yer parrdon," sez I, backin' into th' illivaator a second time.

"What's the matther with ye?" sez Hogan. "Will ye not git off th' illivaator an' sayse blockin' the passage?"

"Faith, I would," sez I, "if I was a vigitaarian, but it is no plaace fer a will-fid man like mesilf." Afther some morre encounthers with pable tryin' to get into th' illivaator we icshttricaated ourselves from this modhern convayn-ince.

"Sure an' 'tis a wondherful plan," sez I.

"Wad ye have thim deshtroy the soul shtirrin' symmitry of this bayuti-full hall with a vulgar an' onniciss'ry illivaator intrance?" aksed Hogan.

The bayutifull hall turned out to be a long an' dark corridor, Hinmissy, that was like th' intayrior of Cook County Jail, which is of coorse faymiliar to ye.

H. I have nivver sayn it, I till ye.

D. Thin we past into another dimly lighted hall diccoraated with on-dhraaped marrbles statues. An' here

were a few payple perrin' into glass caases an' shtrainin' their eyes tryin' to make out the contints.

"In the caases," sez Hogan, "arre manny of the most val'able orriginal dokkimints raygardin' th' early hist'ry of th' American col'nies to be sayn annywhere."

"An'," sez I to Hogan, "I'll saay there is not anny daangerr that anny-bodhy will taake away copies of thim fer a lynx could not say to rayde in this room."

"Ye arre altogither too crittical," sez Hogan to me. "Ivver since the room was opened less than forrtty years ago, plans have been machoorin' fer the finest kind of lightin'."

"Glad it is I am to hear it," sez I. "Lave us hope that future ginnyraa-tions will binnifit from thim."

Thin Hogan lades me through a long an' narry room warnin' me not to knock overr the piles of pitchers on the tablees waitin' to be sint to the pooblic shkools an' akally not to fall into the book illivaator timporaarily out of ordher. An' thin we coom into a fairrly large raydin' room.

"Taake a sate at a table," sez Hogan, "an' do not shpake above a whisper, fer ye might dishturrb th' rayders."

"I have sint fer thray books that I am wishin' fer ye to say," sez Hogan. "In the manetime ye can faste yer eyes on the shplinderrr of the courtt yarrd. I want fer ye to obsaarve the marrbles colonnaade, the wee thrays in tooobs, a subshtichute fer the grass that will not grow, an' in the cinterr of all, the gushin' an' ripplin' fountain of sparklin' wather that is poomped up be an injine in the baasemint."

Afther dhrinking in those beauchous sights fer a considherable time, we were tapped on the shouldher be a smilin' laad bringin' two slips of paaper that had been crossed off with a pin-cil an' wan book.

"I thank ye verra kindly," sez Hogan to the young attindant, "but it is the wrong book an' we cannot wa-ait anny longer." An' turrrnin' to me, Hogan sez, "The service is considhered ixcellint, but delaays will happen in the bist raygulaated lib'ries."

"Yiss," I sez, parodyin' an ol' pro-

verrb, "There is manny a crossed shlip twixt the lib'ry cup an' the raydherr's lip."

Thin we wint out be the shtairrs fer I would not agin risk mesilf in th' illivaator passage.

H. An' were ye satisfied with yer visit, Dooley? Accordhin' to yer own account, ye did not have anny chaance to rade an' ye could not say the worrks of arrt.

D. Hogan presinted me with an ilushtraated guide book that is soold fer the binifit of sick lib'ry employays an' be manes of it he sez annyone can learn iv'rything he nades to know about th' arrt worrks in the lib'ry.

H. I have ye read it, yersilf?

D. I have not. W. H. C.

SPRING FLITTING.

Late in April, the Reserve Collection was moved from the Fine Arts Department to a locked cabinet in Stack 5.—*News Note.*

A tinkle of thin ice cracking — or is it the laughter of frail and scented ladies? Down the twisted iron stairs from the Fine Arts Department comes a procession, led by a librarian, Jean Jacques Casanova, Chevalier de Seingalt. After him flutters a crowd of minxes, Angela, Martin, Caterina. . . . Great ladies, dancers, peasant girls; demure, stately, mincing, gleeful, pert and wilful. Past these strides a black-bearded man, wearing cloth of gold, about his neck a magnificent gold chain, gift of a king of France. Pietro Aretino, called the Scourge of Princes. Unabashed, a chattering girl, Nanna, clings like a falcon to his wrist. A Florentine man-about-town saunters at the side of his lady, Fiammetta. Now comes a queen, Marguerite of Navarre, high-hearted; not strictly beautiful, but in a way bewitching. Two gallants follow; Dagoucin and his companion, wild and reckless Safredant; then two demoiselles, Ennasuite and Nomerfide; finally, merry Simontault.

Enormous echoing laughter, and three lusty figures go rolling, trolling past, Gargantua, Panurge and Pantagruel. And presently, Messieurs, comes one from the heart of France,

rich feeder, pineapple fancier, builder of fantastic palaces; Honoré de Balzac from Touraine. Close at his heels, trots a paunchy pawnbroker, who has heard much and seen all, and remains quite unimpressed. With him, is a light girl in flame-colored silk, the Lady Guinevere; and Queen Helen of troubling beauty, and a lovely slip of devilishness, with the wings of a bat, Phyllis, Grandfather Satin's wife.

Slow-pacing, comes now another royal lady, with beautiful black eyes lowered, Sheherazade, the grand vizier's daughter. Was that Mademoiselle de Maupin swaggering by, or a slim page, dressed to ride at the side of his lord?

And — oh, incredible! — here comes a grave Quaker. Can this be Poor Richard, counsellor of youth, patron of thrift? Time was when he unbent and wrote a sheaf of curious and facetious letters. Another Yankee appears; snow-white his garments, but he furtively chews tobacco and glances about uneasily. This is Boston and neither Lyddy or Howells is by to advise him. What if the chilly Brahmins find out how much he knows about social fireside conversation at the time of the Tudors?

An apple-cheeked boy from Baltimore, sleeves rolled up, brushing away the dust from the clay feet of shattered idols, cries raucously: "Way for new talent! Make way!" Boston sleeps on serenely.

A loitering Dubliner, Stephen Dedalus, stares about him. A queer place this America, and a queer crew. You never knew from minute to another if you'd be alive or not, God help us all! Another brisk little discoverer of America arrives: mustache waxed, quick bird's eyes. Marie Ernest Paul Boniface, Marquis de Castellane, flanked by two tall footmen, clad in scarlet and with powdered wigs. . . .

"Hurry! Hurry! The dawn — into your places all. Shall the dewy innocence of young girls be imperilled by our like?"

The great bronze doors of the Library of the City of Boston clang open. It is safe now — safe for something or other! Democracy, can it be?

M. E. P.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

WILLIAM R. BREWSTER	HARRY W. MATHEWS
WILLIAM F. A. GRAHAM	MARION A. MCCARTHY
ZOLTÁN HARASZTI	MARY E. PRIM
DOROTHY E. HARVEY	HARRIET SWIFT
LUCIEN E. TAYLOR	

Vol. IV, No. 8.

May 15, 1925

Editor-in-Charge for this issue, Zoltán Haraszti.

THE IMMORTALS.

Dante gives thanks to Brunetto Latini, his old master, for teaching him "how man makes himself eternal"; and for more than a quarter of a millenium Frenchmen have been electing each other into a series of armchairs which are supposed to confer immortality. But immortality is not a matter of study or of election.

In our palace-workshop we handle books as tools, we move among paintings as if they were paper on the wall. But our tools are thoughts that will not die, and our wall-paper consists of imperishable works of art. Institutions change and perish, machinery wears out and is replaced, our ideas and methods become antiquated and are superseded, we workers pass to and fro like phantoms, till we disappear and are forgotten. Our names may appear in the Library records, but our work is transient — a part of the current that turns a wheel and flows on to the sea.

But the books that we handle, the paintings that enrich our walls—these will live; some of them will never die. The surest road to immortality is the way of art. A phrase of Shakespeare, a curve from Giotto's hand, a touch of Michelangelo's chisel—these are done, and done forever.

Literary art is capable of indefinite reproduction, and anyone can have it. Music is made for performance — it lives only through those who repeat it.

But painting is unique, and no copy has the full vitality given by the artist's own hand. Our shelves are full of great literature and great music, both immortal, and it is our privilege to have them always within reach. But our walls contain original works of some of the greatest painters of our time; we live with them, and can enter into their life. Puvis de Chavannes, Abbey, Elliott, Sargent — they are the Library's immortals. Puvis de Chavannes we never saw; Elliott lives for most of us only in his "Triumph of Time;" but Abbey, who died not long after he had put in place the final panels of the Holy Grail series, and Sargent, whose funeral praises are still resounding over the world, came and lived with us as they worked. In a peculiar sense they are our Immortals, not by election, but by the achievements of an art unique, individual, undying.

OUR GUESTS.

It was a great pleasure to welcome to Boston the two visitors from Great Britain, Colonel John M. Mitchell, Vice-President of the British Library Association and Secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and Mr. Robert Burns, Secretary of the Dunfermline Trust, who have been making a "hop, skip, and jump" tour of America in the interest of adult education. Their visit, emphasizing as it did the educational function of the library, was a valuable reminder of the constructive character of our work. Their tribute to American librarians as devoted to service, and as seldom yielding to the temptation to forget that their libraries are but means to the great end of education, should stir us to greater effort. Colonel Mitchell's insistence on the duty of every state to establish a central depository, from which the smaller communities may draw whatever books are needed, either for individual research or for the use of serious study-groups, points to a wide and beneficent extension of the system of inter-library loans, and opens a vista of universal and equal opportunity in education which should bring

in a new era of intellectual life, with the libraries as its springs.

In his address at the Boston Public Library, Col. Mitchell spoke with ardor of the spirit of earnest inquiry into great subjects which is common to the United States and the United Kingdom, and prophesied a steady increase in the interchange of ideas between the two peoples. At the beginning of its history, our Library was fertilized by the notion of international exchange. We hope for a series of such visits, each contributing to the stream of thought and good-will which should flow from nation to nation through the public libraries, which are among the strongest influences making for international understanding.

A. L. A.

MR. BELDEN IN CHICAGO.

Mr. Belden represented the Boston Public Library at a special meeting of the American Library Association, held in Chicago April 15 and 16, in honor of Colonel J. M. Mitchell, Secretary of the Carnegie United Kingdom Trust, and Mr. Robert Burns of the Dunfermline Trust.

One open session of the meeting, which was attended by several hundred members of the Association, was devoted to the "Library and Adult Education" and two others to "Education for Librarianship." On the first evening President Meyer of the American Library Association extended a welcome to the guests from overseas. Colonel Mitchell spoke most interestingly on the "County Library as an Agency for Adult Education." The meetings culminated at a dinner, given to the guests at the Congress Hotel on Thursday evening.

During the time that Mr. Belden was in Chicago, he also attended two executive meetings of the Commission on Library and Adult Education.

* * *

BOSTON GROUP OF CATALOGUERS AND CLASSIFIERS.

The spring meeting of the Boston Group of Cataloguers and Classifiers was held on April 15th in the Lecture

Hall of the Boston Public Library. A dinner preceded the meeting at the Hotel Victoria, with more than sixty members in attendance. Mrs. Frances Rathbone Coe presided.

An address of welcome by Frank H. Chase, Reference Librarian of the Boston Public Library, opened the meeting. The minutes of the Fall meeting were read by the Secretary, Miss Flora E. Wise, of Wellesley College Library.

"What shall be the fourth edition of the A. L. A. List of Subject Headings?" was the subject brought up for discussion. The problem as to whether or not the A. L. A. List of Subject Headings should be supplemented by the Library of Congress List, which is constantly being revised, was largely discussed.

Miss Mary E. Hyde, Associate Professor, Dept. of Library Science, Simmons College, told of her experience in the use of the A. L. A. List in connection with the Library of Congress List. Mr. Gardiner M. Jones, Librarian, Salem Public Library, informed the members of the many problems which he and his co-workers were confronted with in compiling the first list of A. L. A. Subject Headings. Mr. T. Franklin Currier, Assistant Librarian of the Harvard College Library, stated that the third edition of Subject Headings should be revised in order to meet the wealth of new subjects which have arisen in the past ten years.

Among the other speakers who told of the method in use at their libraries, were: Miss Laws, Wellesley College Library; Miss Whittemore, Brookline Public Library; Mr. George W. Lee, Librarian, Stone & Webster Inc.; Miss Karr, Watertown Public Library; Joseph L. Crandell, Library of Boston Globe; and Miss Cook, Providence Public Library.

Miss Hyde summarized the meeting, and a vote was taken. The twenty-three libraries represented favored an abridged edition of the Library of Congress List of Subject Headings.

The nominating committee proposed the name of Louise M. Taylor, Librarian of the Essex Institute, Salem, as chairman, and Miss Rose M. Gibbons, Malden Public Library, as secretary-treasurer for the next year. A vote of

thanks was given to Mrs. Coe for her successful direction of the organization during the past year. J. L. C.

* * *

As part of its broad plan for making the library more useful, the A. L. A. is also conducting a "job analysis" of library work, with a view to eliminating the misfits and incompetents, as is being done to-day all over the industrial world. Whether we shall ever arrive at a definite "time schedule" for anything so complicated as helping the bewildered reader to find just the book he wants, remains to be seen. But certainly, well-developed standards of capacity and performance will do much to put the library service on the high plane where it belongs.

ANIMAL POSTERS.

During the week of April 13-20 the Fine Arts Exhibition Room was a veritable paradise of animal life. Every kind of animal, from the household canary to the tiger from African jungles, was there. The occasion was the annual Humane Poster Contest, under the auspices of the M. S. P. C. A., in which 250 parochial and grammar schools of Massachusetts participated.

The rules of the contest were largely concerned with the age of the contestants, and the size of the posters. Though there were no Landseers or Bonheurs among the participants, many of the drawings were surprisingly good, considering the age of the artists, which ranged from six to thirteen years.

The poster "Fifty Lives for one Fur Coat," representing a fox with one foot caught in a trap, was a prize-winner in design and message. The Jack London idea was well expressed in an Animal Training picture. Free use of color was allowed in the posters, with the result that a Japanese pupil sent a flower and water scene that looked almost like a Japanese print. Then, there was the Circus Parade, and the Railroad Station, showing the train starting off, man and boy aboard, but poor little doggie left behind.

In past years cash prizes have been

given, but this year there was no competition — each pupil sending a poster received a M. S. P. C. A. medal. Each school represented was awarded a medal, and also one year's subscription to the magazine "Our Dumb Animals."

The spirit of the "Be Kind to Animals Week" was well sustained in this exhibit. M. L. C.

QUEER QUERIES.

HEARD IN THE INFORMATION OFFICE.

Breathless old lady: "Did anyone find a black handbog around here? There was a small pocketbook in it, and a handkerchief, and a horseshoe."

Elderly gentleman: "Why is it considered lucky to be the seventh son of a seventh son?"

Attendant in Open Shelf Room: "You have a book charged to you that is long overdue."

Oldish lady: "I know it, but there's a mouse in the room where the book is, so I can't get it."

REQUEST SLIPS RECEIVED BY BRANCH DEPARTMENT.

Sirvantis — Donkey Hawtey.

Book about Immigration to the U. S., telling reasons and conditions of immigration in 1607.

OVERHEARD IN CATALOGUE ROOM.

"Every copy of The Way to Perfection, by St. Teresa, has been stolen."

FROM BATES HALL.

Young lady, rushing up to Mr. Chase: "Could you give me the soul of Vachell Lindsay?"

After a careful cross-examination it is discovered that she wishes "The Soul of Susan Yellam," by H. A. Vachell.

Agitated lady: "I want to get to the bottom of things and find out who Queen Mary of England really is."

Elderly woman: "Have you a late book on nerves? It's a yellow book and it costs ninety cents." M. E. P.

LIBRARY MOVIES.

Not since the days of the great trek from the old hall on Boylston Street to the present building in Copley Square has the Library seen such a moving of books as began more than a year ago in the stacks and is now finally completed. Early in 1924, the book-racks were installed in the annex of Stacks 5 and 6, and two and a half miles of sorely needed shelving were thus added to the resources of the institution. Then arose the triple problem of deciding what books should be moved, where they should be placed, and how to accomplish this very considerable task without upsetting the routine service of the Library. On Mr. Michael McCarthy, head of the Shelf Department, and his assistants, fell the burden of the arrangements, and thanks to their care and foresight the task proceeded smoothly despite many unlooked-for complications.

Deciding what books to move was perhaps the easiest part of the problem. The first task was to get together in one place the scattered units of a given class of related subjects which had been "parked" in a somewhat haphazard manner in various parts of the building. One such group was made up of the books on Education — the 35's, 55's, and 75's. Some of these were in Stack 4, some in Stack 4 Annex, and the rest had been crowded into Stack 3. Because of their number, difficulty was experienced in finding a place that would conveniently hold them all without the removal of too many other books. For the main stacks were already very much jammed; Stacks 1, 2, and 5 had had large sections taken out for the Staff Room, the Office, etc., and at best their capacity was about two-thirds of their corresponding annexes. Finally Stack 5 Annex was selected as the best place, and the consolidation of Education began.

With this group, as with the others, the moving took place according to a prearranged scheme. In the new position, shelves were all placed in position and numbered before the books arrived. Each alcove was carefully

laid out on a blueprint (or more accurately a greenprint, for they were sketched on the backs of old fiction blanks) with the height of the shelves, and the shelf-numbers of the books that were to be placed on it, fully indicated. By this system, it was possible to tell just where each shelf-full was to go, and how much space it would require, before it had left its old location. In addition to movement of books in the stacks, overcrowded conditions in the Fine Arts Department, the Patent Room, the Children's Room, and the Barton-Ticknor Library were relieved by the removal of less important material to the various annexes. It was while the work on the Barton was in progress that the order from the Mayor's Office to curtail all expenditures brought the big move to an end.

The actual moving was accomplished with the aid of boys, five or six of whom were kept on the job for months at a time. At first the undertaking was handicapped by lack of light in the new annexes (Stacks 5 and 6), so rapidly did the movers follow upon the heels of the workmen engaged in completing the construction. However the Engineering Department came to the rescue and rigged out the stacks with temporary electrical extensions from Stack 4 Annex, and the work went merrily forward. Shortage of trucks and other tools threatened from time to time to give the boys unexpected opportunities for rest, but that difficulty was also remedied before long. With three boys employed in pushing the trucks from place to place, and two more at loading and unloading respectively, those in charge were able to keep the books in constant motion.

Not the least of the problems connected with this task of moving over six hundred thousand books was that of securing adequate and dependable help. In all, some twenty-five boys were employed in the course of the work. Some left (with or without notice), and others had to be gently but firmly dispensed with. Not one of the lot had ever worked in a library before, and most of them appeared not especially anxious to begin. Conse-

quently, as might be expected, they were a continual source of worry to those over them, as well as to those in charge of the regular stack force — not without reason.

Consequently, too, they were consistently blamed for everything that happened during the time of their employment. Occasionally, of course, they were innocent — but not very often. And usually it was due to their overlooking some opportunity for mischief, rather than deliberate intention. In fact, only the chance that the big flood happened to take place during the night prevented that, too, from being laid at their door. But “boys will be boys;” and the books *did* get moved.

J. S. K. — W. R. B.

NEWS NOTES.

In celebration of the 150th anniversary of the Battle of Lexington an exhibition of manuscripts and engravings was arranged in the Barton Library. Several letters by Paul Revere, and orders by Generals Warren, Artemas Ward and others were shown. The unpublished Diary of Joseph Meriam of Grafton, a private in Capt. Kimball's Company, attracted much attention.

Miss Nellie M. Wilder, formerly public stenographer in the Library, has moved to Room 507, Nottingham Chambers, 25 Huntington Avenue. Miss Moore, who was associated with Miss Wilder, is at 169 Massachusetts Avenue in the afternoon.

The Stack One book railway is now in order, thanks to the skill of Mr. White. The whole book railway system will soon be ready for use.

Since the death of Mr. Sargent, the Fine Arts Department has been besieged with his admirers, seeking information about his life and works.

Among the many visitors to the Sargent Gallery, there was a party of about sixty from the *Brooklyn Eagle*. The meaning and symbolism of the paintings were described to them by

Miss Eleanor M. Mulcahey, of the Fine Arts Department. Many questions were asked, especially about the Church, the Synagogue, and the remaining unfilled panel. Staying only for a few hours in the city, at the beginning of a tour round the world, the visitors regretted that they could not make a more thorough study of the pictures.

On May 7 Dr. Henry Hallam Saunderson, editor of the *Wayside Pulpit*, gave an interpretive lecture on Sargent's decorations in the Boston Public Library. Lantern slides illustrated the interesting talk, given in the Lecture Hall. After the lecture, a large portion of the audience came up to the Sargent Gallery to take a close view of the murals.

To commemorate the 100th anniversary of the founding of the American Unitarian Association, letters, manuscripts and works by William Ellery Channing were exhibited in the Barton Library. Most of the manuscripts were given to the Library by Mrs. Morton Folsom, from the estate of Charles W. Folsom. The Public Library also possesses a large portion of Channing's personal library.

On April 15th Miss Jordan spoke at the Ellen H. Richards School, Dorchester, on “Books for the Younger Children,” before a group of mothers. On April 30th she spoke in the School of Education, Boston University, to a class taking a university course in children's reading. “Books about Other Countries” was her subject.

The April number of the *Catholic Historical Review* contains several book reviews by Miss Miriam T. Murphy, of the Catalogue Department. Her description of the portolan atlas recently exhibited in the Fine Arts Department is a scholarly, and yet very readable, article.

Mr. Lee Dunn, of the Shelf Department, is continuing his good work begun in the Staff Club theatricals. His

latest appearance on the stage was in the recent Boston Latin School show, where he very ably portrayed an old villain.

Mr. James S. Kennedy, of the Shelf Department, directed the production of "Ten nights in a Gym," given by the St. Joseph's Boy Scouts. The show was presented on May 11 and 12, in St. Mary's Theatre, before packed houses. Mr. Kennedy is scoutmaster, in charge of over 250 boys. Over 100 of them were in this show. Leo C. Haley, of the evening force, had a prominent part.

Included in the exhibition of paintings and etchings by Frederick G. Hall at the Guild of Boston Artists, from April 20 to May 2, was an etching showing one corner of the exterior of the Boston Public Library. Beside the architectural design, the figures of several working-men busy on a staging, drew our attention. Really, the etching is of more than simple artistic interest to the Library, for it also records graphically that the exterior walls were cleaned, thus proving to the incredulous that the building *does* receive some consideration, various witty comments to the contrary notwithstanding.

BRANCH NEWS.

In connection with the Book Review talks which have been held at the various Branches, the Catalogue Division of the Branch Department has prepared lists for distribution on Biography, Gardens and gardening, Guides to reading, Fiction, Italian books, Drama, Recent verse, Recent letters and autobiographies, The home beautiful, and a list of one hundred Greek books.

These lists have proved to be very popular.

BRIGHTON: Mrs. Margaret Cummings gave the last Book Review of the season April 17. She spoke about "Soundings" by Hamilton Gibbs, the "Constant Nymph" by Margaret Kennedy, "The Matriarch" by Gladys Bronwyn Stern, and about several detective and mystery stories.

FELLOWES ATHENAEUM: Miss Martha Berry, assistant, retired on April 30. She entered the service in 1877. LIBRARY LIFE wishes her much happiness.

HYDE PARK: At the recent Industrial and Trade Show at Hyde Park, the Branch exhibited fourteen posters, calling attention to various classes of reading matter.

PARKER HILL: The following item recently appeared in the *Boston Globe*: "Representative Thomas S. Kennedy has had several conferences with the Public Library trustees in regard to a new library building for the Mission Hill District. Representative Kennedy pointed out that the Mission Hill District is a great educational center, with the numerous colleges and high schools located there, and the present small branch library on Tremont Street is inadequate. He said that the present branch is in reality but a reading room. He believes that a new building should be erected. A petition for a new library will shortly be sent through the district."

WEST END: Miss Goldstein spoke at the Simmons College School for Social Service, on "Socializing the Library," March 20.

On Monday, April 6, a group of girls from Simmons College Library School visited the West End Branch and were given a talk on "The service of a branch library."

WEST ROXBURY: The Book Review on April 21 was an interesting, informal affair. The books which were reviewed on Home Decoration contained many beautiful illustrations; the pictures on exhibition were taken from the *Architectural Magazine*. The audience was very appreciative.

HONORABLE MENTION.

Life (April 2) says it with flowers: "A New Yorker thinks a Bostonian spends eighteen hours a day in the Public Library, is invariably a Harvard graduate, and never goes anywhere without toting along a green cloth bag."

STAFF CLUB.

COME TO NAHANT.

On Wednesday evening, May 27, the Staff Club will hold its annual meeting in beautiful Nahant, at a cottage which has been kindly loaned to the Club for the occasion by a fellow member. The cottage and its surroundings offer every facility for an exceptionally good time, and the committee is already active in plans for entertainment in which fishing, bathing, beach sports, music and dancing are included.

Picnic lunches, provided by each member, will be supplemented by hot coffee. At 9 o'clock the business meeting and election of officers for the coming year will be held.

Arrangements are in progress for a "joy ride" down and back in the Gray Line busses which will start from Copley Square, in front of the Library, at 5 p.m. and 6 p.m., leaving Nahant for the return trip at 10 p.m. Price \$1.00 for the round trip. Make your reservations early.

Those who go in their own cars will find the crowd at Sea Wall Porch, Mills Terrace, Little Nahant.

* * *

NOMINATIONS.

The Nominating Committee of the Staff Club, consisting of Miss Mary F. Curley, Miss Della Jean Deery, and Mr. Frank H. Chase, presents the following nominations for officers for the year 1925-26:

President: Francis J. Hannigan, Periodical Department.

Vice-President: Beatrice M. Flanagan, Warren Street Branch.

Secretary: Mary M. McDonough, Children's Room.

Treasurer: Oscar Karrel, Executive Department.

Directors: The terms of Miss Edith Guerrier and Mr. William F. A. Graham expire this year. The following are nominated for a term of three years: Alice B. Orcutt, Jamaica Plain Branch; William R. Brewster, Catalogue Department

Heard in Bates Hall: "I want 'La Marseillaise', in French. In English they call it 'The Miserable Ones.' I don't know who wrote it."

THEOLOGICAL BOOKS.

"Theological libraries round about" was the subject considered by the Special Libraries Association at its meeting on Monday evening, April 27th. Through the hospitality of Mrs. Longyear of Brookline, the Association met in her home, visiting afterward the Zion Research Library, which she founded.

Following a short business meeting, Miss Mary M. Pillsbury, Librarian of the General Theological Library, told of the establishment of this library in 1860 by a group of clergymen of various denominations. It is the only one of its kind in the United States. The library includes the literature of all denominations, Christian and non-Christian cults, and all subjects of general current interest. Books are sent free to any ordained clergyman in New England living over twenty miles from Boston, and return postage is enclosed in the package. Clergymen of Boston and the vicinity may borrow books in person. The privilege of borrowing books is also extended to lay persons of the vicinity on payment of \$5.00 a year. The library publishes a quarterly bulletin which is mailed to 6,000 clergymen.

Mr. Frederick T. Persons, Librarian of the Congregational Library, showed how that library serves the Congregational ministers of Eastern United States in much the same way as the General Theological Library serves all clergymen of New England. This library has now not only a good collection of American church history, genealogy, and town history, but is a general library covering all departments of learning. The library has a good reading room, open to all for reference use.

Mrs. Longyear attributed the founding of the Zion Research Library to the desire to verify certain statements made about the Bible. The library covers all denominations based on the Bible and is limited to 5,000 volumes, only the rarest and choicest being retained. Then she spoke of her recent trip to the Holy Land; her lecture, illustrated with beautiful slides, was very interesting.

E. T.

SICK LIST.

Rheumatism has this month claimed two victims — Mr. John A. Lawrence, the Library carpenter, whom we are glad to welcome back to work, and Miss Marion A. McCarthy, of the Branch Department, to whom LIBRARY LIFE extends its best wishes. It is pleasant to report that Miss Veronica Hession, of the Parker Hill Branch, has returned to her post, after an illness of two weeks.

THE OUTSIDE WIRE

WHAT OTHER LIBRARIES ARE DOING AND SAYING

"A fair exchange is no robbery"

On May 6th, the Cleveland Public Library moved into its new building at 325 Superior Avenue. This commodious and well-arranged structure has dug rather deeply into the pockets of Cleveland's citizens, and is a striking and effective monument to the strength and universality of the library ideal. As a result of this "far-sighted liberality . . . the many-sided free service, hitherto tendered under the handicap of cramped physical conditions," is now to be offered "in surroundings which make for greater efficiency and permit of many added features."

What a thrill of unreasoned gladness these words bring to the heart of every true librarian! Next to getting some needed improvements ourselves, there is nothing more heartening than hearing of similar good-fortune on the part of others. "Opportunities for service" are the most satisfying gift the world has to offer. Our congratulations, Cleveland!

* * *

KIPLING CORRECTED.

At last our influence has begun to spread, even to the Pacific Coast. The current number of the *Oakland Free Library Staff Bulletin* reprints our jingle "No Cross Words" at the request of its Reference Department, which officially commends it "as expressing their sentiments in regard to cross-word puzzles." Who said "East is east . . .?"

*

Large statistics of circulation may not necessarily indicate a large usefulness.

*

Not the number of books circulated, but the number of people using it, is the basis of a library's usefulness.

* * *

Assistant (at registration desk): Please write the name of your reference.

Youth (14 years old): Will the fellow that's going with my sister do?

(*The Page*, New York P. L.)

IF —

If you can keep your head when all about you

Folks are standing at your left and at your right,

All wanting information very badly

And asking questions, too, with all their might —

If you can get their book, nor keep them waiting

Until you take a question o'er the 'phone,

To look up Mr. Smith of New York City

Or latest figures of an Anglo-Irish loan;

If you can keep the many slips in order

And send them out as fast as they can go,

And never let the books pile up around you,

And always keep the desk just looking so,

If you can keep each separate person happy

And never have the room too hot or cold,

And always answer every question sweetly

And guess at many things you're never told;

If you can hunt for dates, and facts, and poems,

Perchance compile a bibliog that's rare;

Or scan nine books for latest information

To tell a hunter how to shoot a bear;

If you can even hear the word "debater"

And not consign him to the place for crooks

But meekly go to work and get him data,

Nor curse the man who first invented books;

If you can seek all day and never tire of seeking

For an elusive date, or bit of verse,

And never for a minute doubt your calling

Nor wish at night your bed was in a hearse;

If you can keep your brains alert and humping

And never for a minute let them shirk;

If you can do all this and never weary

And what is more, be *glad* it is your work:

THEN

You're a REFERENCE LIBRARIAN

And nothing on earth

Can cure you of it!

(*Library Log*, Cleveland P. L.)

*

[Inasmuch as the author of the above offered no apologies to Kipling, we feel that it would be indelicate, as well as obviously unnecessary, for us to do anything of the sort.—ED.]

* * *

Barnum built his big circus on the conviction that a fool is born every minute. The Public Library is as sure that along with the fool is born the reader.

(*Readers' Ink*, Indianapolis Library Service)

Note from the *Staff News* of the Chicago Public Library.

Typographical error: Librarianship as a Vacation.

The type-setter evidently had in mind the adage that "A vacation is a change of work." At any rate, the vacation *was* a change.

*

IT HAPPENED IN CHICAGO.

A delinquent borrower sent the following letter: "Please accept ten cents for the fine and five cents for the trouble to which I have put the Library."

If we had any reason for supposing that the Library was really put to only a nickel's worth of trouble, we should feel that we were indeed in the presence of another Lincoln. As it is, this two penny, ha'penny bluff seems to us to bear much more resemblance to the humble flivver.

*

By the way, if any of our "esteemed contemporaries" are in need of a good heading for their branch news columns, we suggest the following for what it is worth: "Monkey Business, or Life in the Branches." For various reasons, we are unable to use it ourselves.

*

Plaintive Lady: I've tried to tear this card out of the catalog, but it won't come.

Librarian: Why did you wish to tear it out?

Plaintive Lady: Because you told me to hand in the number at the counter.

(*Staff News*, Chicago P. L.)

W. R. B.

MARATHON.

Hardly an attendant who worked in Central Library on the famous date of Patriots' Day of nineteen twenty-five will ever forget it. At noon, Silent James Kelley threw open the gates and admitted the public. No crowd awaited without, nor was there any sign apparent to forewarn the unhappy attendants of the fate that was to be theirs. Not even the "regulars" put in an appearance; they were wise, and knew that the newspaper and periodical rooms would not be open.

The great Marathon was scheduled to finish on Exeter Street, in the rear

of the Library, at or about 2.30 p.m. The temperature, that day, was only thirty degrees above zero. The wind? It was from the north, the weather bureau said the following day, and only blowing about twenty miles an hour. A little snow, to be sure, but just a flurry now and then. Such was this beautiful Spring day, when the good people of Boston gathered in thousands to see the Marathon.

At 1.00 p.m. a few who missed their breakfast came into the building to save the heat calories that the dietitians rave about. At 1.15 more came, at 1.30 an increasingly large number came, while at 1.35 the crowd began to pour into the building. At 1.40 the multitude that flooded the building on the day of the Elks' Parade was outnumbered. By 2.00 the Elks' Parade crowd was only a handful by comparison.

Mr. Blaisdell and six of the bravest of the brave strove as supermen to count the hosts as they poured into the building. Alas, it was impossible. The official count stopped at exactly 1.47, when Chester Fazakas, one of the above-mentioned braves, threw up the sponge.

Just when the more tender-hearted of the guests were getting ready to call for the ambulances, a whisper passed through the throng "the winner comes." Out onto Copley Square, like the released water in the Johnstown flood, the crowd poured. The sigh of relief that the seven staggering heroes gave was heard as far as Hyde Park Branch.

But the cruel fate held further bitterness in store for the now immortal seven, who gave their thanks too soon. Like all things, the Marathon came to an end, at 3.15 p.m., as the official police record says.

"Heat, heat, where shall we go to get warm?" This was the thought that was uppermost in the minds of all the thousands of Boston's populace. Nine out of ten thought of the Library. "That is the very place to go," they said. No sooner was the thought thought, than it was acted upon.

In, in they poured, in and in, until no more could get in . . .

W. F. A. G.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume V, No. 1

October 15, 1925

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
MR. BELDEN TAKES TO THE "ROAD"	1	PUBLICATIONS	5
STAFF CLUB	2	PROGRESS — PROFESSIONAL AND PHYSICAL	6
NEWS NOTES	2	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	7
REACHING OUT	4	EXHIBITIONS	8
MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB	4	CALENDAR	8
BRANCH NEWS	5		

MR. BELDEN TAKES TO THE "ROAD."

Mr. Belden's frequent absences from the Library during the last month have brought home rather emphatically the fact of his presidency of the American Library Association. We have become so used to thinking of him as always "on the job" here, that the demands of the new honor are very noticeable. He has been far afield within the last few months, first to Seattle, in July, when he was elected President of the American Library Association on an uncontested ballot. His reception as president-elect was delightfully cordial, and much that is complimentary to this Library was said at his induction.

In September, Mr. Belden went to Philadelphia and Atlantic City in connection with arrangements for the entertainment of the A. L. A. members during the Jubilee Convention which will be held there next October. Tentative plans sound enticing — four days in Atlantic City, filled with meetings which should prove attractive to everyone, and with good times. There is also a day of anniversary festivity in Philadelphia, ending with an evening reception at the Pennsylvania Historical Society. The convention will close on Saturday morning, the ninth, leaving time for further visits to the libraries and places of historical and literary interest in and near Philadelphia, and the Sesquicentennial Exposition.

On the fourteenth of October, Mr. Belden was the guest of the Illinois Library Association at a meeting in Rockford. The next day he spoke at a regional meeting of the library associations of Iowa, Minnesota, Missouri, Nebraska and North and South Dakota, held at Sioux City. At this meeting, Mr. Belden outlined the plans of the various A. L. A. committees, particularly the Committee on Education for Librarianship and the Commission on Adult Education, as well as plans for an A. L. A. Catalog containing some ten thousand entries. One constructive suggestion which he made at this time — and because of it many will regard him as a red revolutionist in library economy — was for a simplified catalogue supplementary to the main catalogue, for the use of the average reader who has neither time nor patience for the intricacies of the present systems.

On his return trip, the Des Moines Library Club entertained Mr. Belden on Saturday, the seventeenth. The next two days were devoted to meetings of the Executive Committee of the A. L. A. in Chicago. His final speaking engagement was at a tri-state library meeting, at Fort Wayne, of the Associations of Michigan, Ohio and Indiana, on October 20.

A message has been sent out by Mr. Belden, as President, and Mr. Milam, as Secretary, to members of the American Library Association. It is here reprinted for those who are now members and those who will wish to join this year in recog-

dition of the honor which has come to this Library through Mr. Belden's presidency.

TO ALL A. L. A. MEMBERS:

The Fiftieth Anniversary Conference of the A. L. A. will be held October 4-9, 1926, at Atlantic City and Philadelphia. It will be the greatest library conference yet held. Shall we not make the anniversary year one of unusual achievement in every library, thus fulfilling the promise of the past and setting a standard for the future?

STAFF CLUB.

RECEPTION TO THE DIRECTOR.

In an exceptionally artistic setting, the first meeting of the Staff Club for the year 1925-26 was held on Wednesday evening, October 28, at 8.15 o'clock, in the Staff Class Room. The Club took this opportunity to tender an informal reception to one of its members, Mr. Charles F. D. Belden, the Director, in honor of his election to the presidency of the American Library Association.

Through his election, the distinction of leading the largest Library Association in the world comes again to the head of the Boston Public Library after an interval of fifty years — the first President of the American Library Association, in 1876, having been Mr. Justin Winsor, then Librarian of the Boston Public Library.

Mr. Frank H. Chase, our Reference Librarian and Chairman of the Reception Committee, presented the new President of the Staff Club, Mr. Francis J. Hannigan, Chief of the Periodical Room, who then, on behalf of the members, extended a cordial welcome to Mr. Belden.

Viewing the large gathering, Mr. Belden expressed his pleasure in the occasion, and gave an interesting and all too brief account of his trip through the West, where he visited the principal libraries and enjoyed the scenic splendors along the route. He also touched upon the proposed activities of the A. L. A., and on the plans in progress for the convention in Atlantic City next year.

After Mr. Belden's address, the popular black-faced impersonator, Mr. "Harvey-Turner," *ex officio* of the Branch Dept., delighted the audience by his monologue, interspersed with jokes and songs.

Miss Marion Bayer, soprano, in a group of songs, accompanied by Mr. Kenneth

Hanley, concluded an enjoyable program. A group of ushers then saw that everybody met and chatted for a moment with Mr. Belden, and was presented to Mrs. Belden, whose winning smile and "just folks" manner has endeared her to so many on various occasions.

Although the evening was intentionally marked by informality, certain "special touches" had been permitted, as was evidenced by the attractive decorations and the delicious refreshments which the committee provided.

So, in an atmosphere of feasting and spontaneous good spirits, ended an evening which marks a milestone in the happy history of the Staff Club. M. A. M.

NEWS NOTES.

On Wednesday evening, November 18th, the Copley Club, composed entirely of members of the Staff, will conduct an informal dancing party at the Chateau Dansant, Huntington Avenue. Members of the Staff who have attended these affairs in the past know that this announcement will assure all of a wonderful evening. The committee in charge consists of: Miss Edith von Schoppe, chairman, Miss Annie Brennan, Miss Alice Kernan, Miss Mary McDonough, and Messrs John Cray, William Graham, and Merton Wheelock.

Romance, with a big R, peeped into the life of B. P. L. when Miss Helen Hilton, of the Dorchester Branch, resigned her position last June. It finally came out that for some fifteen months — since February 24, 1924, to be exact — she had been Mrs. Frank Harris. Mr. Harris is a former member of the Staff, and the belated announcement of their wedding did not keep Mr. and Mrs. Harris from receiving the congratulations of their many friends.

George Gallagher of the Bindery is to be married on November 11 to Miss Mary O'Malley of Brookline. The wedding will take place in St. Cecilia's Church, Boston. After the ceremony, Mr. and Mrs. Gallagher, will sail from New York on an extended tour of Europe. The best wishes of the Staff will attend them on

their journey — matrimonial and otherwise.

Miss Dorothy Harvey, secretary to the Supervisor of Branches, and Mr. Robert L. Turner, were married on June 6, in Springfield. Mr. Turner is a chemical engineer, and is known to all members of the Staff who have witnessed his amusing performances at Staff Club parties.

On October 12th, Miss Eleanor Schlafer, recently of the Issue Department, became Mrs. Benjamin Foreman. The ceremony was performed in the Temple Beth El, Dorchester. Miss Schlafer was one of the popular members of the younger set.

On June 1st, the engagement of Miss Mazie McDonald, of the Issue Department, to Mr. Hubert Keenan of Brighton was announced. The engagement assumes special interest from the fact that Mr. Keenan is a former member of the Staff.

On June 10th, the engagement of Miss Annie Twomey, of the Issue Department, to Mr. Paul Reardon of Jamaica Plain was likewise announced. Mr. Reardon is also a former member of the Staff, and a son of Mr. John Reardon of the Information Office.

On August 22d, the engagement of Miss Isabel Finkleman of the Branch Department to Mr. William V. Feinberg of Boston was announced. Mr. Feinberg is the New England Representative of Nathan Stone of Chicago.

Maximilian L. Eichhorn, for twenty years connected with the Bindery, was retired August 31, 1925.

Mr. Belden was unanimously elected an Honorary Member of the Library Association of China, at a meeting of the Directors held June 2d, "in recognition of his contribution to library science and his noble service in promoting the library movement," and in the belief that his "constant advice and encouragement that will come in the future will assist materially in the endeavors" of the Association.

On July 28th, a daughter was born to Mr. and Mrs. Archibald Gleason. Mr. Gleason is well-known as a member of the Engineers Department.

On July 15th, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. John L. Glynn. Mrs. Glynn was Miss Ruth von Schoppe, formerly of the Issue Department.

At the Swampscott Conference in June, of the Massachusetts Library Club, Mr. Chase, our Reference Librarian, was elected President for the coming year. With Mr. Belden now President of the A. L. A., the direction and control of the nation's library service during the next twelve months seems to be firmly centered in Boston. The very successful conference held at Williamstown on the 16th and 17th of October was conducted under Mr. Chase's direction.

Mr. James P. Mooers was recently appointed assistant foreman in the Bindery Department, to take the place of Mr. William Hemstedt, retired.

Among recent visitors to our building, were Mr. Frank Stewart, of Cheyenne, Wyoming, who was employed in the Library some fifty years ago, and Mr. A. P. C. Griffin, Assistant Librarian of Congress, and a former B. P. L. employee. Both men were much interested in all that the present Library had to offer.

On October 17th, a son was born to Mr. and Mrs. William Mulloney. Mr. Mulloney is First Assistant at Bates Hall Centre Desk.

During the Commencement season last June, degrees were received by several members of the Staff. Donald Walsh, of the Catalogue Department, received his B.S. degree from Harvard *cum laude*. He was also elected to Phi Beta Kappa. John Cray, of the Shelf Department, received his A.B. degree from Boston College, and was given the honor of being class poet. Edward G. Murray, of the Catalogue Department, received his A.B. degree from Holy Cross College *magna cum laude*, and was also chosen class poet.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

Mildred R. Bradbury	Marion A. McCarthy
William R. Brewster	Mary E. Prim
Laura R. Gibbs	Harriet Swift
William F. A. Graham	Dorothy Harvey Turner
Lucien E. Taylor	

Vol. V, No. 1.

October 15, 1925

Editor-in-Charge for this issue, William R. Brewster.

Owing to unavoidable delays in bringing out this copy, and the consequent imminence of the November issue, much material which we should have been glad to print this time must be held until November 15th. — ED.

REACHING OUT.

In older days, a library was a storehouse of treasures which, under proper restrictions, might be seen by those who would take the pains to come. The history of the Boston Public Library, however, has been marked by a succession of efforts to reach the people more directly, in the belief that the library's true function is that of an active educational force.

In 1871, there was established in East Boston the first Branch Library in the world, which was soon followed by the opening of Delivery Stations, and deposits in Engine Houses and other places. In 1900, began the series of free public lectures in the Lecture Hall of the Library. To the announcement of these lectures was presently joined that of other public lectures in Boston, and later that of the Extension Courses offered under various auspices. These announcements, under the title of "Opportunities for Adult Education in Greater Boston," now fill a pamphlet of seventy-three pages, and include descriptions of free lectures and extension courses offered by thirty-six different institutions. A comprehensive index now makes it easy to refer to the material in this pamphlet, which is one of the most

important contributions yet made by the Library toward the spread of education in Boston.

Of no less interest is the campaign conducted by the Library for the distribution of the admirable reading guides published by the American Library Association, under the general title "Reading with a purpose." During the past three months, the Library has sold for the A. L. A. more than sixteen hundred copies of these manuals at ten cents each. More than half of the sales have been local, but hundreds of copies have been taken by visitors from all parts of the Union, and from countries as remote as China and India. A. L. A. headquarters informs us that no other library in the country has met with so ready a response to this movement for helping adults to read wisely.

We are proud that the Library is always reaching out. The advancement of learning, which is its purpose, is best served by the education of the individual reader.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

For the first time in thirteen years, the Massachusetts Library Club went to Berkshire County this month, holding its fall meeting at Williamstown on October 16-17, in joint session with the Western Massachusetts Library Club. A motor trip from Boston, going by the Mohawk Trail and returning by way of Lenox and Jacob's Ladder, proved so attractive that over eighty librarians, filling three motor busses, went to the meeting over the road.

The outstanding features of the meeting were an address on Friday evening by Mrs. Dorothy Canfield Fisher, with the title "One Story, from the Beginning," and a stimulating talk by Mr. George H. Locke, Chief Librarian of the Toronto Public Library, in which he told "What and Why is a Boys' and Girls' House," and incidentally spoke of a good many other matters of vital interest to librarians. Mrs. Fisher read one of her stories, "The Bed Quilt," and then told with great skill and revealing power the processes by which it had been created. There was a delightful organ recital, and the visiting librarians found much to interest them in

the beautiful new library of Williams College.

Among the one hundred and fifty persons present, there were only five from the staff of the Boston Public Library. Mr. Chase, as President of the Club, had charge of the meeting, and Miss M. Florence Cufflin, Librarian of the South End Branch, spoke at the evening session about the work of training assistants, as carried on in our Branch System.

BRANCH NEWS.

At the beginning of the summer, the pamphlet collections were called in from all the Branches, a uniform classification was devised for them, so 'cross-referenced' as to eliminate the necessity of further cataloguing, and every pamphlet indexed with its appropriate heading so that they can now be filed in vertical filing cases. A record of just what is in each Branch is now kept by means of a duplicate file in the Branch Department. Nearly seven thousand new pieces were added to round out the collections and to bring them up to date.

Virtually all this material has been contributed without charge, railroads, publishers, manufacturers, city, state, and national governments responding lavishly to our requests. The John Hancock Life Insurance Company alone has given sets of its attractive little biographies of American statesmen to a total of eight hundred pieces. There are likewise numerous book lists, many timely biographies of recent authors, a goodly collection of sketches of industries, and booklets and folders issued by the railroads dealing chiefly with New England in its holiday aspect.

These files thus provide material dealing with recent events, as well as much that can be used to supplement the book collections at times of great pressure. They will be kept up to date by the Supervisor's Office as well as by the branch librarians themselves, many of whom are constantly alert for additional pamphlet material, as well as for clippings, which possibly may be of use in their reference work.

Ruth Sturgis who was a general assistant in the Catalog Division of the Branch Department, left the service September 1, 1925.

Miss Laura R. Gibbs, formerly of Tel-U-Where, has been appointed Assistant in this Division.

EAST BOSTON: Miss Edith Gustafson of this Branch has left the service to take the position of Assistant in charge of school exhibition work in the Newark Public Library.

Miss Mary Veiga, formerly general assistant at East Boston, left the service early in the summer to become a teacher of English in the schools in Porto Rico.

FELLOWS ATHENAEUM: On August 31, in the Boston University Chapel, Robinson Hall, on Mt. Vernon St., Martha Morris Knott was married to the Rev. Stanley C. McClintic. Mr. and Mrs. McClintic are now living in San Francisco. The entire staff were guests at the wedding.

ORIENT HEIGHTS: This Branch has enlarged its quarters so that it now occupies twice its original area. This, together with the installation of electric lights, new shelving, and other repairs make it a very attractive library.

TYLER STREET: The "World's Premier" Pushcart Library started a series of weekly trips through the South End in July. This innovation was carried on well into September, with great success, by the Tyler Street Branch and Lincoln House. The purpose was to serve people who did not have time to come to the Library, and to interest children playing on the streets in the great facilities for education and entertainment offered by the Public Library.

WEST ROXBURY: The first Book Review of the season was held October 20, at 10.00 a.m., in the lecture hall of the Branch. The subject was "Recent Fiction," and the meeting was well attended.

PUBLICATIONS.

Since our last issue, two Brief Reading Lists have appeared: No. 32, "The Circus," by L. E. Taylor; and No. 33, "The Miracle," by Mary A. Tenney. "The Circus" was issued in May for circus week, and "The Miracle" in October in anticipation of Morris Gest's production in Boston of the music-drama pantomime *The Miracle*.

PROGRESS — PROFESSIONAL AND PHYSICAL

FINE ARTS.

Alterations and renovations have made the past season an interesting one for the Special Libraries Department. The smell of new paint and the noise of hammers have become quite a matter of course, and seem to disturb the readers not at all.

The top of the book-elevator no longer barricades the indicator, nor do persons consulting the public catalogue have to hunt for the beginning of it in the next room. No longer do the draughts from the service elevator well chill the bald heads of lecturers, since the lantern slides have been removed to a less exposed location in the Southwest Pavilion.

In the Reading Room, a central location for the Periodical Rack has made space for a much needed additional readers' table.

All the "Cabs" have been removed from the alcoves of the Reading Room and the Southwest Pavilion, and the Third Alcove has been added to the Fine Arts open-shelf space.

The Sixth and Seventh Alcoves have been added to the Technology shelves, and the book accommodation of the Sixth Alcove has been enlarged by the erection of floor cases which also screen the alcove from the locker space and the passage to the Bindery.

In the West Gallery, the "Cab" units which stood for more than twenty years between the windows have all been "parked" in a compact "village" at the north end of the room. The gain in appearance, convenience, security, and ease of supervision is obvious, and already the Department has received angry protests from persons who miss the cosy window alcoves where they were wont to eat their lunch with small fear of interruption.

Just at present a labyrinth of scaffolding, entirely filling the Gallery, renders it rather difficult to grasp the full effect of these changes. Washing and painting on such a scale is inconvenient, but it is expected that the splendor of the result

will amply pay for the temporary disturbance.

The departmental staff have not been altogether idle while these changes have been going on. The less used Fine Arts books and bound pamphlets, which were in the balcony shelves, have all been re-labelled and transferred to Stack 3 Annex, and the necessary records have been made.

The entire Fine Arts periodical collection has been moved to allow for growth.

The Architectural Alcove in the West Gallery has been suppressed, and the more useful part of its contents has been transferred to the Fine Arts Open-Shelf Collection. The entire Fine Arts alcove collection has been moved northwards, so that it now begins at Alcove 10 instead of Alcove 6 as formerly. With the help of young men from the Shelf Department, all of the 'Cab' Books have been moved and now stand in the regular order of their numbers; sixteen 'Cabs' are waiting removal to the new floor over the Statistical Department.

All accessions in Fine Arts since July 23 have been classified on an adaptation of the Library of Congress Classification, using the decimal numbers devised by the Shelf Department.

The most important change, from the point of view of immediate service, is the entire reclassification of the Fine Arts Open-Shelf Collection on an expansive system, provided with an index and continuing the sequence of numbers employed for open-shelf books by the Technology Division.

The Ninth Alcove has been assigned to a classified Study Collection of oversize books and portfolios in frequent use by art students.

The oversize and miscellaneous picture collections have been removed from the Trustees' Gallery and are in process of classification and arrangement.

The Library owes a debt of gratitude to the members of the Special Libraries staff whose zeal and efficiency have made it practicable to put through these changes in so short a time.

W. H. C.

"CLEAN UP AND PAINT UP."

During the last few months, this has been the motto of those in the Engineers and Janitors Department, from the highest to the lowest. Joe Griffin, our genial marble worker, started it, out in the main entrance hall. Mounted on a lofty, movable scaffold, his skilful hand soon brought the color back into the blackened mosaic. Out in the Courtyard, others of the force busied themselves in removing all pitfalls into which the cooing pigeons might stray. New furnaces in the boiler-room have brought a smile to the faces of Sullivan and O'Brien, who are the custodians of our diamond mines. And so it goes.

"Save the surface and you save all" is the same as saying McGee and his squad. The exterior of the building has been greatly improved. Now our ponderous, iron gates, with their new tinge of green, and smiling Jim Kelley in the background, are the opening attraction every morning, Clement and Finnigan, who shoot paint from a hose, have made Stack 6 the *de luxe* section of the building, with the result that these two "gunmen" are badly "wanted" by the rest of the departments. Nor are Mr. Crowley and his snorting vacuum cleaner any less in demand.

The book-railway, once in the hands of the receiver, is now running neck and neck with the Toonerville Trolley. White and Carnie operate during the day, but in the evening it is a one-man car, with Wyzanski at the throttle.

The lighting problem in the majority of the Branches has been solved by the installation of modern lighting fixtures. Mr. Danker, our own Thomas Edison,

has made the Periodical and Information Rooms the bright spots in the building.

The heating system throughout the building has been overhauled, and dainty Ed Rehwaldt, with his 200 pounds of bone and sinew, has been stringing up pipe around the cellar all summer long. A new engine and generator, of larger capacity than the old ones, are now part of our equipment. Their almost noiseless operation will make them a boon alike to readers and attendants, while their self-oiling features have brought no frowns of displeasure to the faces of Lacey and Herland, the "Old Guard" of the engine-room.

The large ventilating fan, located in the roof, has likewise been put in running order, and its effect has been noticeable throughout the building. The vacuum cleaning machine, after an overhauling, is now functioning every day, while a dust collector is yet another asset.

The Bindery, too, has benefitted by the march of progress in the mechanical field. Four new, motor-driven machines perform many operations formerly done by hand. A new automatic press has been added in the Printing Office, and the linotypes overhauled and rebuilt. Also there are well-authenticated rumors of a new elevator for the Blagden Street side, and life's ups and downs will shortly take on an even greater degree of certitude. Lastly, the roof is at length undergoing repairs, so that soon the weather will be on the outside, where it belongs. All this, together with the other work done at the various Branches, shows how far we have gone toward renovating our buildings — and, by subtraction, how far we have still to go!

W. F. Q.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

A special meeting of the Benefit Association was held in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library on Wednesday, May 20, 1925, for the purpose of debating the question of the new Credit System.

After much discussion, the following motions were carried:

Motion: That the minutes of the last meeting be laid on the table until the next meeting, when they shall be resubmitted for approval, with a full statement of the program of the Credit Committee

and the action of the Association regarding it, incorporated in them.

Motion: That the Credit Committee shall accept no further applications for loans of money of the Association, but shall continue to exercise its function in respect to loans already made, according to the vote of the Association at its meeting held April 7, 1925.

* * *

The regular fall meeting, called for October 6th was adjourned for lack of a quorum. No other meeting will be called.

The Entertainment Committee for the ensuing year consists of: William F. A. Graham, Chairman; Miss Angeline Hovestadt, Bindery; Miss Alice Kernan, Issue Dept.; Miss Mary McDonough, Children's Room; and Archibald Gleason, Engineers Department.

* * *

WHEN ILLNESS COMES.

The Relief Committee of the B. P. L. E. B. A. stresses the importance of all members paying their monthly dues promptly, thereby remaining in good standing and thus being eligible for all benefits allowed, should illness occur. Also, the authorized representatives of the Association in the many Library divisions are strongly urged to take their responsibilities seriously. These representatives have been appointed for the purpose of looking after the interests of their immediate associates who, when stricken with illness, are frequently unable to act for themselves. Representatives should see that the Secretary of the Benefit Association is notified of the illness of any member and that his or her physician's certificate is filed, not later than the end of the second week of illness. Notice of when the member returns to work should also be sent to the Treasurer of the Association. Only through the willing co-operation of the representatives can the Association be made the smoothly functioning organ of assistance which it is intended to be.

* * *

SICK LIST.

Since the last issue of *LIBRARY LIFE*, illness has levied its usual toll upon our library associates. Its victims of the past few months have been: Miss Veronica Hession, Parker Hill Branch; Miss Marion McCarthy, Branch Dept.; Miss Gertrude Carey, Bindery Dept.; Mr. Richard Brown, Shipping Dept.; Mr. Patrick Kennedy and Mr. William Hickey, of the Engineers and Janitors Dept. Happily, we are now able to say "welcome back" to them all. To Miss Vida Brooker, Hyde Park Branch, Miss Leah Perlis, Mt. Bowdoin Branch, and Mr. William O'Hara, Ordering Dept., who are at present ill, *LIBRARY LIFE* expresses its sympathy and sincere wishes for an early recovery.

EXHIBITIONS.

The coming of "The Miracle" to Boston is heralded by the current exhibition of original oil paintings and photographs, loaned by the publicity agents of the company. Despite sundry "letters to the Editor" of the *Transcript*, we feel sure that the artistic value, alike of the exhibits and of the play itself, will readily absolve the Library from having "fallen for" a mere advance agent dodge.

A propos of the tearing down of the Boston Theatre, material from the Library and from the personal collection of Mr. Quincy Kilby was on exhibition during September.

CALENDAR.

- Sun., Nov. 1. 3.30 p.m. Author's Reading of Selections from the novel, "God's Scarlet Law."
Francis Henry Wade, M.D.
- Wed., Nov. 4. 3.00 p.m. The Composition of Poetry.
Charles Hammond Gibson, President, American Poetry Association.
- Thu., Nov. 5. 8.00 p.m. In Viking Lands and Waters.
Charles Ernest White, Assistant Secretary, American Board of Commissioners for Foreign Missions.
- Sun., Nov. 8. 3.30 p.m. A Program for Armistice Day, with musical and dramatic illustrations.
Henry Augustine Smith, Head of Department of Fine Arts in Religion, Boston University School of Religious Education.
- Mon., Nov. 9. 3.00 p.m. Mexico.
Dr. Charles E. Spaulding. (Ruskin Club.)
- Thu., Nov. 12. 8.00 p.m. The Rocky Mountain Hike of 1925.
Rev. Charles W. Casson, President of The Field and Forest Club.
- Sun., Nov. 15. 3.30 p.m. Portrait of a Dramatist (American).
Robert E. Rogers, A.M., Associate Professor of English, Massachusetts Institute of Technology.
- Wed., Nov. 18. 8.00 p.m. Copley Club Dance.
Chateau Dansant, Huntington Avenue.
- Thu., Nov. 19. 8.00 p.m. The New Jugoslavians.
Emma G. Cummings.
- Sun., Nov. 22. 3.30 p.m. Amy Lowell and Present-Day Poetry.
George Mark Sneath, A.M., Instructor in English, Boston University.
- Mon., Nov. 23. 3.00 p.m. Goldsmith and Gray.
Mr. Charles Hammond Gibson. (Ruskin Club.)
- Tue., Nov. 24. 8.15 p.m. Staff Club Meeting.
- Sun., Nov. 29. 3.30 p.m. Scandinavian Writers.
Lorence Munson Woodside.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume V, Nos. 2 and 3.

December 15, 1925

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
HORACE GREELEY WADLIN	9	CHRISTMAS AT THE LIB'RY	15
THE MIRACLE	11	EDITORIALS	16
MORE "MIRACLES"	11	THE LIBRARY EDITOR	17
WILLIAM P. HEMSTEDT	12	NEWS NOTES	18
JOHN MURDOCH	12	ROUND TRIP TO CHILDREN'S LAND	21
EXCITEMENT IN SUSSEX	14	BRANCH NEWS	21
MISS FRINDSORFF	14	STAFF CLUB	23
SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON	15	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	23
HENRY NIEDERAUER	15	CALENDAR	24

HORACE GREELEY WADLIN.

We are never prepared to part with a good friend of long standing, and least prepared when such a friend is in appearance perhaps the youngest of our elders. Mr. Wadlin, though we knew the tally of his years, was always a young man among us. It was with a shock and an incredulous surprise that we received the news that his life was over.

He had the carriage of one whose life was constantly happy. Trials and difficulties he kept concealed. His more than three score and ten years seemed at least to pass with uncommon smoothness. He was never much perturbed; his work was done in quiet and his large attainments reached without visible struggle. Step by step he moved onward and upward easily, apparently endowed with that "merry heart" which "goes all the day." So happiness seems to be bestowed upon some people as a special gift from on high.

Mr. Wadlin was the son of Daniel H. and Lucy E. (Brown) Wadlin, and was born in South Reading (now Wakefield), October 2, 1851. His education was mostly gained by private instruction, though Tufts College conferred upon him the honorary degree

of Doctor of Letters in 1905. He was early interested in history, sociology, literature and art, and continued so to the end of his life. He studied architecture in Salem and in the offices of Lord & Fuller in Boston. In 1875 he opened an office of his own at 5 Pemberton Square, which he maintained for a few years. Here, besides the Highland, Union and Prospect Street schools, the fire station and many residences in Reading, he designed the Sugden Library at Spencer, Mass., the High School at Biddeford, Me., and the Thornton Academy building at Saco in the same State.

In that same year of 1875, on September 8, he was married to Miss Ella Frances Butterfield, who survives him. For 70 years he was a resident of Reading. In 1876 he was the orator at the national centennial celebration there, which was also the 250th anniversary celebration of the founding of the town. This home town he served in many ways through many years. He was on the school board for forty years, most of the time as secretary or chairman, on the board of library trustees a long time, and latterly its chairman, and was the first vice-president of the Reading Co-operative Bank.

His public service covered a wider field. In 1885-86 he represented the 12th Middlesex district (Reading,

North Reading and Wilmington) in the General Court, and in 1887-88 the 14th district (Reading and Woburn). In the Legislature he was chairman of the committees on Woman Suffrage, Education, and Railroads. He then became chief of the Massachusetts Bureau of Statistics of Labor, under appointment of Governor Ames, succeeding his old friend and fellow townsman, Carroll Davidson Wright, whose assistant he had been since 1879 when he closed his architect's office. This position he held for 15 years, during which he issued 14 annual reports of the Bureau and 16 on statistics of manufactures in the State. He was director of the Massachusetts census for 1895, which was published in seven volumes, and was supervisor for Massachusetts of the U. S. censuses of 1890 and 1900. He also served as chairman of a special commission appointed by Governor Crane, which made a report to the Legislature on methods of support of the public schools of the State.

Early in 1903 a new honor came to him, when the Trustees of this Library offered him the post of Librarian, which he filled admirably for 14 years, during which he was held in high regard by both trustees and employees. Upon his resignation in 1917 everybody connected with the library united in tendering him a dinner and presenting a loving cup to him. After his resignation he was librarian emeritus until his death.

He was made executor of the will of Mr. Benton, who had long been chairman of the Trustees, and for the remainder of his life was one of the trustees of the large Benton estate. He wrote articles occasionally and lectured frequently on subjects in literature, art, and sociology. He had published "Carroll Davidson Wright, a Memorial," and a "History of the Boston Public Library," both in 1911. He had earlier written the article on Massachusetts for *Chambers' Cyclopaedia* and, with Mr. Wright, a chapter on the industries of Boston for *Winsor's Memorial History*. He had already published accounts of Reading and North Reading in *Lewis's History of Middlesex County*, and some later papers relating to his home town, which he had

recently prepared, have yet to be printed.

Mr. Wadlin was a member of the Good Fellowship Club, of Reading, the Boston Art Club, and the Unitarian Club, of the American Statistical Association, the American Economic Association, the American Library Association, the American Library Institute, and of other societies.

He died at the Winchester Hospital November 5, and was buried from his home in Reading November 7. The town in which he lived, the Commonwealth which he served, and the institutions and causes for which he worked so long, are the poorer for the departure of this genial, friendly, capable man.

H. L. W.

The Board of Trustees of the Library, at its meeting on Friday, November 6, adopted the following resolutions on the death of Mr. Wadlin:

"RESOLVED: that the Trustees record 'their sincere regret at the death of the late 'Horace G. Wadlin, librarian of the Boston 'Public Library from 1903 to 1917. His 'death coming when he was in such apparent 'good health and vigor seems untimely.

"RESOLVED: that this minute be entered 'on the records of the Board of Trustees, 'and that a copy be sent to Mrs. Wadlin."

In response to an editorial request, the following letters have been received from former associates of Mr. Wadlin.

To the Editors of LIBRARY LIFE:

In the passing of Horace G. Wadlin I have lost the companionship and aid of a delightful friend and helpful co-trustee. During my close association with him for the last eight years he has seemed to enjoy life and his freedom from any confining business. His presence was likely to be heralded with a humorous anecdote, and after the transaction of such business as needed attention he enjoyed discussing the topics of the day, upon which he was always well posted and had well defined views.

Since his return from Ogunquit in September he had been troubled in his mind by an impending operation, but this did not hinder him from discussing in his humorous manner certain details of preliminary examination. The sudden turn in his condition was a great shock to all his friends.

Mr. Wadlin was a man of sterling character, of genial manner, of great executive ability, and was endowed with good common sense. He had hosts of friends and no enemies.

Arthur F. Clarke.*

* Mr. Clarke was co-trustee, with Mr. Wadlin, of the Benton estate.



Arace L. Washin.

To the Editors of LIBRARY LIFE:

I have just learned of the death of Mr. Horace G. Wadlin, and my memory goes back many years. It was after my first appointment as Trustees of the Public Library of Boston that I met Mr. Wadlin. Ever since that time our intercourse has been most cordial, and the news of his death comes to me with a sense of personal loss.

Mr. Wadlin knew men, and to his knowledge of men and his ability to attach them to himself he owed largely his success as Librarian of the Public Library of Boston.

The bond between him and Colonel Josiah H. Benton, who for many years was President of the Library, was especially close, and Colonel Benton made him one of the executors of his estate, all of which goes eventually to the Library.

As I look back to my intercourse with Mr. Wadlin, I cannot recall a single unpleasant incident. Always straight-forward, frank, and sincere, it was a pleasure to have dealings with him.

And in his death, the Public Library of Boston has lost a devoted friend and the Community has lost an eminent citizen.

Alexander Mann.

To the Editors of LIBRARY LIFE:

Your letter of Nov. 12th, asking me for an expression of appreciation of the late Horace G. Wadlin, has been received. You make this request of me as the only member of the present Board of Trustees who held office during his term.

Mr. Horace G. Wadlin was an official in whom were conspicuous sound learning, varied science, and zeal for the acquisition and extension of information. He was from nature kind and benevolent, from principle tender of the character and feelings of his subordinates, and a lover of peace and charity. These noble qualities of mind and heart, together with the accomplishments of a gentleman, were such as secured the respect and affection of the Trustees and employees of the Boston Public Library for him while living, and embalm his memory for them after death.

Arthur T. Connolly.

THE MIRACLE.

For days the anticipation of it had obsessed us, and when we arrived at the Opera House on Monday afternoon, November 30, we found ourselves in the midst of an eager expectant throng. Outside cars, motors, pedestrians all had but one objective, the "Miracle"; in the vestibule, two serpentine lines, seemingly endless, advanced gradually to the windows of the box office; aides guided the lines and agents sold souvenir programmes continuously.

Once inside the auditorium, everyone

felt the beauty and holiness of the scene. The semi-darkness was punctuated by the ushers' torches, which flickered like will-o'-the-wisps up and down the aisles. The eyes wandered through spaces more vast than one had imagined possible in the familiar opera house. It is safe to say that the atmosphere brought all persons present in tune with the spirit of the occasion.

The representation of the mediaeval miracle play was true to type, with all the embellishments which modern art and science could supply; the old familiar hymns and some of the masterpieces of modern music were heard in their proper places. The attention was held spell-bound from beginning to end and the audience followed with equal emotion the surge and swell of the religious rapture of that by-gone age. Everyone came away with the highest idea of the dramatic feeling and talent of the actors.

To Mr. Gest the Library is greatly indebted. It was not only a generous thing to do from a financial point of view, but that a successful business man should so show his appreciation of the service he felt it had rendered him was distinctly worthwhile. The Trustees have voted that the Morris Gest Fund, to be used in the interests of dramatic art, be created from the \$2652 received.

MORE "MIRACLES."

On the evenings of Sunday and Monday, December 20 and 21, Community Service, in coöperation with the Public Celebrations Committee and the Library, will present a series of Miracle Plays, after the old style. The general outline is the same as that of the production which was given so successfully last year, but with the exception of two plays from the York Cycle, the text this time is taken from the Gayley arrangement of the Townley Cycle. In this group, the Shepherds play a prominent part. Another feature is the introduction of Satanus, red cloak and all; his scene with Herod is one of the "high spots" of the Townley Cycle.

Another prominent part is that of Gabriel, who will be played by Mrs. Elaine Ingersoll Minick. The music, too, has been elaborated over that of last year, new

carols, and a double quartette from Boston College, being among the innovations. As before, the hall will be treated to create the illusion of a church, with hooded monks and lighted candles in profusion. The cast contains few Library people, but it is expected that a large number of the staff will take pains to attend. Miss Joy Higgins directs as usual.

WILLIAM P. HEMSTEDT.

It is not always an easy or congenial task to say good-bye to an old and faithful fellow-worker and friend, even though in our hearts we feel it is best for the retiring one to go—that it means for him rest and surcease from the obligated daily task.

So it is that, with the retirement of William Hemstedt of the Bindery force, there are many indeed of his associates throughout the Library who share the regret that the passing out of our lives of a daily associate must occasion. He had been with us going on forty-three years, and in his time had seen the institution grow from its modest efforts and quarters in the old Boylston Street building to the enlarged service and tremendous clientage it now serves.

When he first entered the service in 1883, there were only six employed in the Bindery, a number he saw increased to forty. All work, even the heaviest, was done by hand, and all machinery was operated by man-power. Most of this hard work fell on him, and he often mentioned the ease with which we now take care of much that was laborious and difficult in his early days with us.

Mr. Hemstedt has the rare and delightful faculty of endearing himself to the children, and he is never happier than when making some ingenious toy or putting together scrap-books of pictures that appeal to them. He was very clever in the Bindery, and his knack of doing the most difficult odd jobs made him especially valuable. He is still young and full of vigor, and spent this first summer of his leisure enjoying his life-long, inherent love of the sea in boating and fishing about Plymouth Bay with his young grand-

son, a husky boy of twelve. His father, be it remembered, was a sea-captain who paid the melancholy toll exacted of so many men who go down to the sea in ships.

Mr. Hemstedt won and held the affections of his associates to a degree far beyond the usual relations between fellow-workers, and one and all wish him many years of life and health in the enjoyment of his retirement. He served the Library well and never spared himself in his capacity as a worker. He was conscientious and painstaking, and may justly feel that of him it may be said truthfully: He is deserving of all that the City can do for him to make his remaining days happy and free from care. May he live long to enjoy his ease! J. W. K.

JOHN MURDOCH.

John Murdoch, formerly First Assistant in the Catalogue Room, died suddenly from heart failure on Tuesday, September 22, at his home, 16 High Rock Way, Allston. Funeral services were held there on Thursday, the twenty-fourth, and were conducted, in accordance with Mr. Murdoch's wishes, by his friend, Rev. Horace L. Wheeler, Chief of the Statistical Department.

Mr. Murdoch came of colonial and sea-faring ancestry — four members of his family were with the American army at Cambridge in 1776. He was born in New Orleans, July 9, 1852, the son of John and Elizabeth (Smith) Murdoch, prepared for college at the Roxbury Latin School, and graduated A.B. *cum laude* from Harvard in 1873, the sixth scholar in the class and a member of Phi Beta Kappa. He took his Master's degree in 1876, in natural history, and remained for another year engaged in miscellaneous zoological work and tutoring. His subsequent career is of such interest that we cannot do better than to quote his own words from the Class Report: "From 1877 to 1880 he was successively teacher of science at the Chelsea, Mass., High School, private tutor at Peekskill, N. Y., and substitute for a friend as professor of zoology in the State University of Wisconsin. In 1881, he was naturalist and

observer to the Signal Service expedition to Point Barrow, Alaska, which entailed enlistment in the Signal Corps, U. S. Army, in which service he was later promoted to sergeant. Returning in 1883, he was for three years employed at Washington in working up the scientific results of the observations made in natural history and ethnology. In 1886 he was discharged from the army, and for a year was assistant librarian of the U. S. National Museum. He was then made librarian of the Smithsonian Institution, in charge also of the collection of books in the National Museum. Resigning in 1892 on account of ill health, he went to Middleboro, Mass., where he engaged in farming until 1896, when he took a position in the Catalogue Department of the Boston Public Library and was made First Assistant in 1906."

Mr. Murdoch was the author of sixty or more articles in scientific journals, on zoological topics and Eskimo ethnology, but his most important publications were "Natural History" in the Report of the Point Barrow Expedition, published as a House Executive Document, and "Ethnological Results of the Point Barrow Expedition" in the Report of the Bureau of Ethnology.

In the natural sciences he was an acknowledged expert. He examined regularly twenty or more scientific periodicals, English and foreign, in order that the Library might acquire the authoritative books as they appeared; the Map Collection, also, he revised and enlarged. Our collections in the sciences are richer for his watchful selective scholarship. The booklists that he prepared for the Library illustrate the scope of his work: Gardens; Birds; Trees; Wild flowers and ferns; Cape Cod; Camping out; Swimming; Freshwater fishing; Photography; Canoeing; Water sports; Stars; Trout fishing; Dairying; Weather; Animals and their ways; Alaska.

For a number of years he collected materials for bibliographies of the Arctic and of the Eskimo, which may appear later as publications of the Library; and he likewise contributed an exceptional number of titles to the proposed bibliography of works of the original members of the Nuttall Ornithological Club.

Mr. Murdoch's professional connections were many. He was a Fellow of

the American Association for the Advancement of Science, a member of the American Ornithologists' Union, the American Anthropological Association, and other scientific organizations, and was a Master Craftsman and Dean of the Guild of Photographers of the Boston Society of Arts and Crafts.

Aside from his professional work his amusements were diversified: he followed closely the dramatic and musical seasons in Boston, year by year; he took part in numerous amateur productions, and, it may be said in passing, he could usually identify the decade of a print from its costumes. Boating and fishing occupied his vacations at his summer home in South Orleans, and the garden of his home in Allston was a delight to his friends. But photography was his most satisfying hobby. His pictures are famous for their composition, life, and atmosphere. They cover a wide range of locality, Cape Cod to San Francisco — and in Boston, T-Wharf and the water-front, the Charles, old Roxbury, and the Library, both building and staff. His enlargements have frequently been exhibited at the Boston Society of Arts and Crafts.

He married, July 23, 1884, Miss Abby De Forest Stuart, of Highland Park, Ill., who survives him. Also surviving are two sons, Joseph, of Belmont, and Richard, now in Guatemala, and three sisters, all living in Boston.

During his service in the Library, he lived in Roxbury, Cambridge, and finally at 16 High Rock Way, Allston, where, in 1913, he built the "Half-Way House," with its pleasant old-fashioned arrangement of square rooms, straight stairway, ample fireplaces, and photographic laboratory in the basement.

He was always a delightful companion. English and Latin literature he knew intimately, and his memory was a treasury of apt quotation and amusing anecdote. After his retirement in 1923, he was a regular and welcome visitor at the Library, where, as was to be expected, he not only kept in touch with the work of his department, and gave liberally of his time to the promotion of his specialties, but shared with us his bright and convincing outlook on current affairs. He remained young all his life long. A scholar, a gentleman, and the best of all good companions, has left us.

L. E. T.

EXCITEMENT IN SUSSEX.

The House on the Downs, by G. E. Locke.
Page & Co., Boston, 1924.

Miss Gladys E. Locke keeps her fellow cataloguers busy making out cards for her books. The latest to occupy their attention is "The House on the Downs," a most ingenious mystery story.

From Australia comes Mr. Mark Brandon to spend a quiet holiday at the home of his old friend, Sir Quentin Rotherdene. Rotherdene Abbey is in the heart of Sussex, and no doubt the poor gentleman looked forward to nothing more exciting than walks over the Downs or discussions of Mr. Kipling's fiction. But before he even reached the home of his host, the unfortunate Australian had stumbled on the body of a murdered man, in the pocket of whose coat was a lady's diamond bracelet and, in whose hand was clutched a moon flower.

Being the perfect guest, Mr. Brandon decides to say nothing of his gruesome find until after dinner. In addition to the host, there were gathered about the candle-lit table: Lady Eve Rotherdene the young wife of Sir Quentin; Fazenta Lee and Rodney Sherrad, his gipsy wards; the dissipated-looking Lord Mostyn; a gentle old naturalist, Mr. Elphick; and Alwyn Rotherdene, Sir Quentin's younger brother. The local police inspector, whose manners were inferior to those of Mr. Brandon, interrupts this blithe gathering with news of the murder.

Thereafter, the finger of suspicion shifts from one to the other of the party at Rotherdene Grange. Uncanny happenings transpire in the East Wing. At the coroner's inquest, it would seem that the guilty person is the exquisite Lady Eve, whose name should have been Lilith, so alluring is she. Before all her friends, the bitter secret of her youth is disclosed. Mark Brandon, too, is confronted with a spectre from the past. Horror piles upon horror until we find out the fiend of Rotherdene Grange is ——. Don't think you can guess, because you can't!

Hitherto, Miss Locke has written of England from her vivid imagination, but before this book was completed, the author had visited the scene of the story under happier circumstances than Mr. Mark Brandon, and consequently is able

to make us see it clearly. It is a very beautiful country, with its "springy turf of the South Downs, green and gold under the blue dome of the sky, joyous with mounting larks," and with "soft winds sweet with wild thyme and fresh with the sea."

* * *

The coroner's inquest is most adroitly handled, with delicious character touches, such as the episode of the coroner and the theatrical boarding house keeper:

"Did you happen to ring up the Central Exchange to find out where the call came from?"

Mrs. Peller looked disappointed with herself. "I never thought of it."

* * *

A suggestion to the library staff: give "The House on the Downs" as a Christmas gift. It's sure to be appreciated.

M. E. P.

MISS FRINSDORFF.

To those of us who can remember, the year 1894 seems a long time ago. Not many remain in the Library ranks who can reckon their service from that time, and this number is now lessened by the going of Miss Emily Frinsdorff.

On December 31, 1894, Miss Frinsdorff, who had given up her position of private secretary to a busy downtown lawyer, entered the Library as assistant in the Ordering Department, where she has filled the position of First Assistant since March 17, 1905. In the late spring of this year, after thirty years of service, she decided that the claims of home and family were too urgent to be longer disregarded, and her much regretted resignation followed and became effective September first. After thirty years of exacting work, surely one is entitled to a holiday!

During this time, Miss Frinsdorff has seen the work of ordering books expand to meet the requirements of new departments, new Branches, new activities, until the yearly accessions mounted from twenty thousand to eighty thousand volumes. To endless detail she brought rare patience, and to her constantly increasing duties a fidelity which was a shining example. (This she would undoubtedly disclaim.) Those who were most closely associated with her do not fully realize

that she will not be with them as the year rounds out. They think of her as "away-on-leave," not penalized for overstaying, with ampler leisure to enjoy her rose-garden, and still linked to her old associates by continuing friendship. A happy prospect to her!

T. E. M.

SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON.

At the meeting of the S. L. A. B., on November twenty-third, held at the Women's Educational and Industrial Union, an informal reception was given to Mr. Belden in his capacity of President of the American Library Association.

Mr. Belden spoke very informally, of the relations between the Special Libraries Association and the American Library Association, of the next A. L. A. Conference, to be held in Atlantic City the week of October fourth, 1926, and of the progress of work on "Adult Education" as carried on by public libraries.

Because of his knowledge of future plans, he was able to give a clear idea of the coming conference and of the exhibit which the A. L. A. is planning to make of library work and methods.

HENRY NIEDERAUER.

"The Big Fellow," as his associates loved to call him, died on Wednesday, November 25th, after an illness of ten days.

Henry Niederauer, who was at that time considered the best stationary engineer in New England, came to the Boston Public Library six months before the building on Copley Square was opened, to take charge of the installation of the heating plant, and remained as Chief Engineer for over thirty years, retiring February 29, 1923. To his work in the Library he always gave the best that was in him to give.

He assisted in placing both the Sargent and Abbey paintings in the Library and himself worked out the proper temperature conditions for them. Mr. Sargent was very fond of him, and he cherished a crayon portrait of himself done as a gift by the pencil of the great artist.

As a musician he had considerable ability and it was always a great pleasure to

his friends to hear him sing the old songs in his fine voice to his own accompaniments. A few intimates knew that he added to this gift considerable ability as a German mimic and took delight in hearing him in this capacity.

He was born in Roxbury and educated at the Roxbury Latin School. As a young man he was a member of the Roxbury City Guards and of the State Militia. He married Miss Helen Goff of the South End, who died several years ago. His daughters, Lilian and Maybelle, both survive him.

"The Big Fellow," who was big in so many ways, was a big friend, always ready to do a favor, leaving many for whom his place will never be filled.

CHRISTMAS AT THE LIB'RY.

The devout listeners who gather at nine-fifteen in the draughty front hall to hear the Library Choristers sing carols at noon . . . The stack girls' Christmas tree, with its rosy lights and the ingenious fireplace which masks the Stack Four sink . . . Ecstatic youngsters hanging over the little wax Christ Child in His crib in the Children's Room . . . The frantic crush at the Bates Hall Catalogue for Christmas Customs in Many Lands . . . The coy oldish gentlemen who present bits of mistletoe to the young lady attendant at the New Fiction Desk . . . The Branch Department party and the ensuing hilarity over the joke gifts . . . The wreath in the Information Office and the crimson candle throwing its beams over a small portion of a naughty world . . . The devotional atmosphere "out front" at the Christmas Eve Miracle Play in the Lecture Hall. The light-hearted giggling and excitement backstage . . . The willing young man who delivers the inter-departmental mail staggering under the weight of Christmas cards on December twenty-fourth . . . The dreary desolation of any department of any public library on Christmas Eve . . . The Staff Club Christmas party with young Mr. Brewster genially assuming the white and scarlet trimmings of Santa Claus and his enchanting sub-subway voice . . .

Who can say that the Library fails to celebrate the Great Feast?

M. E. P.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

Mildred R. Bradbury	Marion A. McCarthy
William R. Brewster	Mary E. Prim
Laura R. Gibbs	Harriet Swift
William F. A. Graham	Dorothy Harvey Turner
Lucien E. Taylor	

Vol. V, Nos. 2 & 3. December 15, 1925

Editors-in-Charge for this issue, Mary E. Prim and Laura R. Gibbs.

Many factors have conspired to make this a double number — November-December, instead of November 15 and December 15. With best hopes for greater regularity in future, LIBRARY LIFE wishes every member of the staff a Merry Christmas and a Happy New Year.

TYPES.

The passage of the years brings to every institution a succession of human figures, who enter its service, play their parts, each according to his endowment and his good-will, and pass out, leaving their impress behind them. Three such figures, all of them in retirement from active service, have departed from our fellowship this fall. Each had filled ably a significant place in the life of the Library. Each held our love and esteem. We miss them all.

Mr. Wadlin came to the Library ripe in wisdom, gifted and cultured, bringing to his task great dignity and a wide experience in administration. Trained as an architect, a public servant of long standing, a prominent figure in the General Court and an eloquent speaker, polished and urbane, he looked like what he was — the head of a great public institution. He loved both books and his fellow men; we felt that he was at once just and kind; he had an agreeable sense of humor and a geniality which disarmed the criticism even of those who felt that he was inscrutable. There burned

within him too a latent fire which was seldom visible, but which on occasion would flash forth with a generous heat in behalf of a cause which stirred him. He took a deep interest in the work of the Library Branches, and labored earnestly for its extension. At a critical period, he came to the rescue of the Benefit Association, and as its president he gave to it a standing and a solidity which without his aid it might have been long in achieving. His dignified volume "The Public Library of the City of Boston: a History," will make him remembered as our first historian. We liked him and honored him; he was one of the fine figures in our line of librarians, and we shall miss the sight of him, as he occasionally revisited his old post of duty.

Mr. John Murdoch was a type no less marked than Mr. Wadlin. Essentially a scholar, keen of mind and wit, his memory was stocked with the most recondite learning and the most delicious nonsense, both ready to flow forth at a moment's notice for the delight and the service of anyone who cared to use them. More than most men, he had flavor, and will live in our memories as one whose quiet zest in life enriched all those who knew him. He stood for everything that was sound, in books, in work, in everyday living. He was a stimulus to his friends, a despair to those who sought to vie with him in scholarship, a true librarian of the best old-fashioned sort. As trustee of the Fellowes Athenaeum, as cataloguer, as sponsor for our scientific collections, especially in the field of geography, his service was invaluable. His devotion to the Library was in no sense diminished by his retirement from his post, and we mourn his loss, not merely as a learned and whimsical friend, but as an active force in holding the Library up to standard.

Mr. Niederauer, whose death occurs just as we go to press, was a third type of Library worthy. An engineer of the old school, familiar from its erection with every nook and cranny of our great building, he performed patiently and cheerfully the manifold duties of superintendent. Always obliging, even if asked to make bricks

without straw, he was ready with advice and assistance at every emergency. Like Mr. Wadlin and Mr. Murdoch, he was something of a philosopher, viewing life from an individual angle which gave personality to all that he did and said. He had a genuine affection for the building and the life that went on here, and we are glad that he found it so easy to wander back to the old ruts in which he had run so long. Him too, and his warm handshake, we shall miss.

Happy the institution that enlists such men in its service! We who remain shall all be better and wiser men and women for having known these three.

The excellent portrait of Mr. Wadlin issued as a supplement to this issue is reproduced from a photograph taken in the fall of 1924, and lent for the purpose by Miss D. J. Deery.

A PRINCE AMONG NEWSBOYS.

Just as *LIBRARY LIFE* goes to press, there has come to the Library an unexampled gift, which was announced in the following letter:

Offices of
MORRIS GEST
Princess Theatre,
New York.

November 20, 1925.

Judge Michael J. Murray,
Boston Public Library,
Boston, Mass.

Honored Sir,

The fact that I am able to dictate this letter in the English language, I owe to the Boston Public Library. In my youth, I had neither time nor funds to study with, but what little education I did get, was through the Public Library.

I think, that in a modest way, I have paid my debt to the City of Boston, but I want to pay, in a more modest way, my debt to the Boston Public Library. Therefore, will you honor me, and give me the privilege of devoting one performance, and the entire gross receipts from that performance, to the Library. Monday afternoon, November 30th, I should think would be a good day. I shall stand the entire expense and turn over all the receipts to you for whatever use you may wish to use them. There will be absolutely no expense attached for the Library.

I beg you please to accept this, and make use of it in any way you and the Trustees of the Library see fit. Please accept this also, not as an offering from a rich man,

but as a debt of love from a very poor man, who still owes over \$300,000 on the production of "The Miracle." It is my conscience and my soul which directs me to do something for that to which I owe so much—the Boston Public Library. It has given me so many inspirations, and even now, on my visits to Boston, there is hardly a day that I do not walk in to look around, for it all seems so wonderful to me. What is there in Boston that does so much for both the poor and rich boys and girls, as the Boston Public Library.

One other fact that I'd like to tell you about, and that is, that while "The Miracle" is doing the most enormous business in the history of the Boston Opera House, not five per cent of the entire receipts will ever leave Boston, for all the money is being paid mostly for local labor, local musicians, local advertising, etc., and with the exception of a few of the people sending part of their salaries to their parents and some of the money going for royalty to Europe; the rest of it, mostly every dollar is being spent in Boston.

Please forgive me, dear sir, for taking up your valuable time with such a long letter, but I just wanted to express my innermost thoughts and feelings.

With my best wishes, believe me, dear sir,

Very sincerely yours,

MORRIS GEST.

In its whole history the Boston Public Library has received no finer tribute than this spontaneous gift from a former Boston newsboy, who loves the city of his first adoption. The great benefaction of Joshua Bates, the Boston boy who had felt the lack of just such library privileges as were available for Morris Gest, was prompted largely by the desire to provide the means of education to those who would otherwise be without them. This gift is among the fruits of Mr. Bates's far-sighted generosity; Mr. Gest is a perfect example of the sort of "adult education" which is one of the chief functions of the Public Library. Our gratitude and our pride are alike stirred by this royal gift; for the entire staff, *LIBRARY LIFE* expresses its heartfelt thanks to Mr. Gest.

THE LIBRARY EDITOR.

LIBRARY LIFE rejoices in the revival of the position of Editor of Library Publications, and in the appointment to it of Mr. Zoltán Haraszti. When we had just learned, as a result of his two years of efficient service in the Barton Library, to set a just value on Mr. Haraszti's qualities, we regretfully said good-bye, as he

departed on leave of absence; we now welcome him back to the new place among us, which he is eminently qualified to fill — a fact demonstrated both by the numerous articles, based on Library material, which he has contributed to the Boston newspapers, and by his work on *LIBRARY LIFE*.

Mr. Haraszti is a natural journalist, of a scholarly type. Trained in law — of which he holds the Hungarian degree of Doctor —; experienced as a journalist in his own country and as editor and publisher of a newspaper in Bridgeport, Conn.; a translator of books from foreign languages into Hungarian; a librarian of proved capacity; he brings to his editorial duties a wealth of equipment, which gives a fair promise to the *Bulletin of the Library*, which it will be his task to revive. Mr. Swift established in the position of Editor a great tradition, which was ably carried on by Miss Rollins. We are glad of the opportunity which has come to Mr. Haraszti to develop this inheritance.

F. H. C.

SARGENT.

Every member of the Library staff should make it a point to see the exhibitions of the work of John Singer Sargent now on view in Boston. There will probably never be another equal opportunity to study his work as a whole in any one place.

His greatest production — the mural "Triumph of Religion" — abides with us as a priceless possession. The Widener Library at Harvard has two large mural panels on its stairway. At the Museum of Fine Arts is the rich decoration of the rotunda, now completed by the series of ten paintings and six reliefs over the stairway and its corridors, Mr. Sargent's last work, which were unveiled on November third.

These can all be seen at any time, as may the varied paintings by Sargent, some fifteen in number, in the Isabella Stuart Gardner Museum. But at the Museum of Fine Arts there is now a temporary exhibition — to be open until December 27 — of Sargent's paintings in oil and water-color which will not soon be duplicated. The exhibition fills five rooms, including the great Tapestry Gallery, and gives a

remarkable conspectus of Sargent's most characteristic work, from his student days up to last year. There are in all some 375 paintings and drawings in the collection, to which scores of lenders have contributed. Many of his most famous portraits are included, and the show as a whole gives an adequate impression of the man's tremendous power and skill, and of the scope and variety of his work. No one should miss this opportunity — it will not occur again.

As a supplement to this exhibition, there has been installed in the exhibition Room of the Boston Public Library a collection of photographs and other reproductions of Sargent's works, drawn from a variety of sources and arranged by Mr. Walter Rowlands. No one now in the Library has any excuse for a lack of acquaintance with the accomplishment of our great master.

NEWS NOTES.

LIBRARY LIFE regrets the omission, last month, of congratulations to Mr. and Mrs. John Watson on the arrival of a baby girl in August. Mr. Watson is a member of the Bindery Staff.

By oversight, it was stated in the last issue that Donald Walsh, of the Catalogue Department, received his degree from Harvard *cum laude*, and Phi Beta Kappa. Mr. Walsh's degree was conferred *magna cum laude*.

Mr. Henry J. Moulton, long a figure in the life of the Library, died on November 25, after a short illness. Mr. Moulton after a busy early life as a newspaper man, editor at one time of a Lowell paper and prominent in political life, came to Boston some twenty years ago and as research man for the *Boston Daily Globe* spent his working hours in the Library. During these years he met practically every member of the staff and there is no one who does not feel that he has lost a friend. A broad, kindly, sympathetic man, his memory will live long in the hearts of the Library staff. His funeral services on Saturday, November 28, at the Church of the Immaculate Conception were attended by a large group of Library workers.

LIBRARY LIFE extends its sincerest sympathy to Mr. and Mrs. Arthur Maier for the loss of their infant twin daughters. Mrs. Maier was formerly Miss Mary Daly, of the Fine Arts Department, and Mr. Maier is also a former member of the staff.

Friends of Mr. Chester Fazakas are urging him to publish in book form the articles on contemporary European literature which appeared last year in *America*.

At a recent meeting of the Trustees an order was passed creating a new division of the Reference Department. This is to be known as the Genealogical Division and Miss Agnes C. Doyle is Assistant in Charge. She is to have her quarters in Bates Hall near the reference books on this subject and will have charge of all inquiries in her Division, whether made in person or by mail.

Mr. Michael J. Conroy has been promoted to the position of First Assistant in the Bates Hall Reference Department.

The following minutes recently adopted by the Board of Trustees are of general interest:

In Board of Trustees.

Friday, December 4, 1925.

"RESOLVED: that the Trustees of the 'Public Library of the City of Boston record their regret at the death of Mr. Henry Niederauer, who retired from his post on February 9, 1924, after nearly thirty years of faithful service as Chief Engineer of the Library and Custodian of the Central Library Building. His intimate knowledge of the building since its erection, together with his integrity of character, made him a valued and trusted employee during his long term of service."

"RESOLVED: that these resolutions be entered in the records of the Library, and that a copy be sent to Mr. Niederauer's family."

In Board of Trustees.

Friday, December 4, 1925.

"The President presented from Mr. Morris Gest a check for Twenty-six hundred and fifty-two and 50/100 dollars (\$2652.50) a gift to the Library under the terms of his letter of November 20, 1925; and it was

"VOTED: that the gift be accepted and funded as the 'MORRIS GEST FUND', the income to be used in the interest of dramatic art."

Miss Anna Lynch of the South Boston Branch was married to Mr. Joseph Carr, a prominent Roxbury business man, in St. Margaret's Church, Dorchester, on June 17th. Miss Mary Wall of the South Boston Branch was bridesmaid and John Carr, a brother of the groom, was the best man. After their honeymoon the couple made their home in Dorchester.

LIBRARY LIFE is glad to express the sympathy of his fellow-workers to Mr. James Sullivan, of the Shelf Department, whose mother died on September 9th.

To Mr. Thomas Manning, of the Fine Arts Department, LIBRARY LIFE extends its sympathy in the death of his aunt, Miss Mary G. Manning, on October 15th. Miss Manning was his only near relative, and acted *in loco parentis* to Mr. Manning.

On Tuesday, November 11, Mr. George Gallagher of the Bindery was united in marriage to Miss Mary O'Malley of Brookline, in St. Cecelia's Church, Back Bay. It was one of the prettiest weddings of the season. Numbered among the ushers were Mr. John O'Brien and Mr. Philip Mooers of the Bindery. Mr. Edward Gallagher, a brother of the groom and a former member of the Staff, was best man, and Miss Elizabeth O'Malley, a sister of the bride, was maid of honor. After the ceremony a reception was held in the Hotel Westminster, where breakfast was served. Many members of the Staff were present at both the ceremony and the breakfast. Immediately after the ceremony the couple left for New York City, where they stayed until November 14, when they sailed for Europe on a two months' honeymoon.

On Thursday, October 29, Mr. Bel-dén spoke before the Library Section of the Rhode Island Institute of Instruction, at Providence. On the morning of November 11, he addressed the Wednesday Morning Club, in the Trustees' Room of the Library, on "The Boston Public Library System."

On Wednesday evening, November 18, the Copley Club held their informal dancing party at the Chateau Dansant. The committee in charge consisted of Miss Edith von Schoppe, chairman, Misses Anna Brennan, Alice Kernan and Mary McDonough, and Messrs. J. Francis Cray, Merton Hayes Wheelock and William Graham.

The Life of St. Francis of Assisi, recently on exhibition in the Fine Arts Department, is reviewed at length in the December number of the *Catholic World*, by Miss Miriam Murphy of the Catalogue Room. Incidentally Miss Murphy's book reviews of current histories appear regularly in the *Catholic Historical Review*.

Friday the thirteenth may be unlucky for some, but it was a lucky day for the three-year-old, who, knowing neither her name nor address, was found by our vigilant police officer, Mr. Gustave Rosenfeld.

"Inexpensive Books for Christmas Presents" (*Brief Reading List No. 34*), was prepared by Miss Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children, in connection with Children's Book Week.

LIBRARY LIFE extends its sincerest sympathy to Mr. William MacCarthy, of the Shelf Department, who lost his father on November thirtieth.

Mr. Chase spoke in the Museum of Fine Arts on Sunday afternoon, October 25, on "Illuminated Manuscripts." On Saturday afternoon, November 14, he addressed the College Club on "The Flavor of Old Books." In both cases he exhibited some rare books from the collections of the Library.

A contract has just been let to the B. F. Sturtevant Company to install a new ventilating system. The Johnson Service Company has contracted to supply an automatic heat control equipment. LIBRARY LIFE hopes they'll do their prettiest and relieve a long-suffering staff from the complaints of the public.

In the *Boston Sunday Herald* for November 8, there appeared a spicy article by Lowell A. Norris, headed "Public Library Saves the Day for Boston

Baked Beans." As a result of interviews with a number of assistants in reference work, Mr. Norris was able to tell numerous interesting or amusing library stories, illustrated by letters received from the most varied sources. The article was enlivened by an excellent drawing by Haydon Jones.

On Saturday, November 7, Mrs. Mary Ford, mother of Ralph Ford of the Bindery, was found dead in her home in New Hampshire. The funeral was held in Malden on November 10th. LIBRARY LIFE extends sincere sympathy to Mr. Ford.

Mr. William Hickey (direct descendant of the William Hickey who wrote such enchanting Memoirs) recently stumbled into one of the old torture chambers of the Boston Public Library which have not been in use since before the Revolution. In his haste to escape, he struck his head against the newspaper chute installed by Cotton Mather and sustained a severe scalp wound which required several stitches to close. Although in great pain, our gallant elevator operator refused to leave his post and continued, pallid and bandaged, to whiz efficiently from the Main Floor to Fine Arts. Mr. Hickey's hair-raising experience is being written up for *Liberty* by his talented co-worker, Mr. Charles Webster.

On Thursday afternoon, December 3, a visit was paid to the Library by Mr. Philip A. de László, the eminent Hungarian-English portrait painter, and Mrs. de László. They were entertained at tea in the Staff Room, and were conducted about the Library by Mr. Belden and other officials. Mr. de László is an enthusiast over the Library building, and regards the staircase hall as one of the most beautiful rooms in the world.

Through the exemplary perseverance of Mr. John H. Reardon, the Open Shelf Room at last has a catalogue of its own. In reality it has two catalogues, for the New Books are listed separately.

The public appear to find it very useful. Recently an attendant noticed a young lady pulling out catalogue drawers

and sighing heavily. In reply to an offer for help she said, "I want to take out these two books and it says you must write down the call-numbers. I'm looking for them in the catalogue."

The attendant hastily explained that the call-number could also be found on the back of each book as well as inside the cover.

Inquiry in Bates Hall: "Can these books with the hysterics on the numbers be taken out?"

Mr. William F. A. Graham, of the Catalogue Department, was admitted on December first, to practice law in the United States courts.

ROUND TRIP TO CHILDREN'S LAND.

From the last week in September to the last in November, Miss Jordan broadcast once a week from WNAC, during the Women's Club talks. In these talks she took children's books, some new, some old, read portions of them, gave a general outline and, in short, attempted to interest the older people in books for children. All this was in indirect preparation for Children's Book Week, which occurred this year, November 8-14.

When one entered Central during this week, a placard, of the most striking combination of colors caught your eye and informed you that this was Children's Book Week.

In the Children's Room during that week there was an exhibition of Kate Douglas Wiggin's "Rebecca of Sunnybrook Farm," which showed the progress of the book from the time that Mrs. Wiggin sent a letter about it to the publisher, to the time when Gertrude Millicent runs away with the finished copy to read it "under the greenwood tree." It was really quite interesting to see the different processes, especially the plates.

As always, in Children's Book Week, an exhibition was prepared in the Teachers' Room, featuring the best books for Christmas gifts. This exhibition will last until Christmas. In connection with this a pamphlet has been prepared: "Inexpensive Books," which should greatly aid in the selection of a gift for little Gregory.

This, above, was for the older people, now for the children themselves. The

"Mappe of Fairyland," which has been in the Children's Room for quite a time, and which always attracts a crowd of younger people, contains many references to mythological stories. A prize has been offered to the child making the longest list of titles from it. As yet there is not much competition. No Library employee is allowed to compete.

The Branches had various exhibitions and preparations for this week. The West End Branch seems to have won first prize; for Judge Murray, Mr. Chase, and Miss Jordan all spoke in that district. Miss Cronan told many stories, and some of the school-children made posters of the books they liked best and these were exhibited.

There is an old quotation:—

"There is no frigate like a book
To take us lands away."

An exhibition was prepared to show the children ships that really did take people "lands away." There was a model of that famous ship the "Mayflower," which, according to statistics now on hand, must have had a passenger list of at least one hundred thousand; then there was an East Indianman with all its warlike equipment; and a model of the greatest example of American clipper ships, "Flying Cloud." These ships were loaned by their builder, Mr. E. W. Ottie. There is a picture of the real "Flying Cloud" in the showcase along with other books on ships. One of the models is said to be worth \$500. So if you see the police officers hanging around the Children's Room you will know the reason why.

Thomas Ross, a user of the Room, saw these models and offered to put one of his own on exhibition. Miss Jordan accepted the offer and there is now on exhibition there a model of an ocean liner which this fourteen-year-old boy has made out of scraps. The model burns alcohol and will run for about two hours. The "Thomasonian" is a credit to its builder, being the second done by him. L. J. D.

BRANCH NEWS.

"HEARTS AND FLOWERS."

Hearts are trumps at any season, so tho' the date on Library calendars was Nov. 10, red and pink hearts glowed unchallenged at the Branch Department party given in honor of Miss

Isabel Finkleman — our latest “bride-to-be.” Seventeen merry souls met in the office of the Bindery Division where an excellent luncheon (home talent) was served. Since the occasion was an engagement party it seemed appropriate for all to look into the future, and this favor was granted by means of a glorious “fortune cake.” Each slice contained a cute little object — a luck-charm for the future. Wedding-bells, rings, lucky ships, wise old owls, and “pieces of eight” afforded much merriment.

Then our own Miss Guerrier discovered a mysterious package gay with hearts and ribbons — yes, it was addressed to Isabel — and the contents proved to be a silver steak-set.

After the excitement of the surprise package there was just time to attend the Flower Wedding, a guessing game in which John Quill leads his Bridal Rose to the altar where Cardinal Flower officiates with pomp and circumstance.

So the first luncheon party of the season was a most satisfactory reunion and a very gay occasion. E. M. H.

HEATLESS DAYS.

“It was a dark and stormy night and in the little general store and post-office the men of the small village were gathered around the hugh old-fashioned stove.”

Our story, as far as the stove is concerned, might start like this also, but how different are our circumstances. Instead of the general store, we only have the Warren Street Branch trying to keep warm. For accidents may happen to the best regulated boilers, and naturally our poor faithful was among the first to go.

The youngsters oh-ed and ah-ed around the stove placed in the middle of the Children’s Room, while the librarians wondered how to keep them from burning themselves even with the “chicken wire” surrounding it.

Now that we have heat once more, I can truthfully say that none of us had to shovel coal.

NOTES.

The BRIGHTON BRANCH Book Review took the form of a review of Hutchinson’s “One Increasing Purpose” by Dr. Henry Hallam Saunderson, and proved

so popular that many were turned away. The review was repeated early in December.

JAMAICA PLAIN. The Children’s Book Week display was supplemented by a talk by Miss Jordan to specially invited patrons. The lecture room was used for a “Court of Honor” by the Boy Scouts. A friend has donated a number of posters of her own execution for the Children’s Room. The *Jamaica Plain Journal* devotes each week an entire column (or more) to the interests of the library, and claims that this has increased the newspaper’s circulation.

Miss Nellie F. Riley has retired and Miss Alice B. Orcutt is Acting First Assistant.

MT. PLEASANT displayed its children’s books in such a way as to excite the curiosity of the children. Gay covers to attract attention, books half open to colored illustrations to invite further inspection. Two pairs of sabots, from France and Holland advertised the “Twin” books for those countries.

NORTH END BRANCH observed Children’s Week by a display of dolls representing almost every nationality about which juvenile books have been written. Houghton Mifflin Company loaned the Branch three original paintings illustrating “Heidi,” “Adrift on an Ice Pan,” and “Books of Fables and Folk Stories.”

For original posters I think you’ll agree, That ROSLINDALE BRANCH has some you should see,

They are neat, apt and pretty, and this is no boast.

Illustrating Christmas with St. Nick as host.

SOUTH BOSTON. The most hardened Goop would profit by the children’s classes now in progress at this Branch. Among other things, the small readers are taught that no real lady or gentleman chews the corners of his library card; that it is not good form to leave gum between the pages of “Pinocchio;” and that hiding books back of other books is low. The size of the class is decided by the number of children who have registered during the week. Sometimes as many as seventy card-holders attend.

WEST END celebrated Children's Book Week by having a "Library Day" in the school halls of the Wendell Phillips, Bowdoin, Winchell, and Wells Schools. The programs were varied to suit the different grades. Addresses were made by Mr. Chase, Miss Jordan, Mr. Kenney, and Judge Murray; Mrs. Cronan told stories to every group, and Miss Goldstein gave class room talks at the Washington Junior High School. The children of the latter school made 67 book posters and handed in 41 reports on books assigned for Children's Book Week. An exhibit of new books for children was held in the Library and was visited by many people.

There are on exhibit at the Branch during December three large carved oak panels representing the first Christmas, from a painting by Heywood Sumner. They were carved by the Reverend W. M. Turney, S.S.J.E., of St. John's Church, Bowdoin Street, and won the second prize at the Canadian National Exhibition of 1924 in Toronto.

WEST ROXBURY had demands for a story hour on Thanksgiving Day. They report also a demand for "The Autobiography of a Bison," which was satisfied by "The Biography of a Grizzly."

Some thirty-five women gathered in the West Roxbury Library on the morning of the seventeenth of November for the monthly book review conducted by the Women's Club. The subject was history.

STAFF CLUB.

VIEWS AND NEWS OF RECENT BOOKS.

"When are we to hear John Clair Minot again?"

This insistent question was agreeably answered at a meeting of the Staff Club on Tuesday evening, November 24th, when the popular critic and literary editor of the *Boston Herald* discussed "Recent Books," a subject of direct interest to the speaker and his Library audience. Informally and chattily he spoke about some of the outstanding books in the deluge covering his desk.

Of course he began with the novels, best-sellers and others. In succession he discussed "The Perennial Bachelor," "One Increasing Purpose," "The Profes-

sor's House," "Wild Geese," "The Glorious Apollo," and "Soundings," which was appropriately followed by "Drums," "The Smiths," "The Virtuous Husband" (not a Smith), and "Possession" closed the fiction list.

Lovers of biography have recently had a wide choice of variously interesting character analyses and interpretative biographies, as distinguished from the old type of biography. Among them Mr. Minot noted: Aaron Burr; Downes, John S. Sargent; Carter, Life of Mrs. Gardner; White, Woodrow Wilson; White, Calvin Coolidge; Smith, Kate Douglas Wiggin; Lowell, John Keats; Bradford, Wives (of famous and infamous Americans); Maurois, Ariel; Barton, The Man Nobody Knows (the real Jesus); Lord Grey's Twenty-five years 1891-1916; Collins, The Doctor Looks at Biography; Dr. Gordon, My Education and Religion.

Time was flying, so Mr. Minot merely mentioned some popular books of travel and others of general interest. An open discussion followed after which rustic refreshments were served. Miss Alice Jordan, Chairman, Miss Mary Toy and Miss Harriet Swift were the hostesses of the evening.

CHRISTMAS PARTY.

Christmas time is such a joyous period in Library circles that all are reluctant to see the festive season wane. To prolong it as much as possible the Staff Club has planned its annual Christmas party for Wednesday evening, December 30th, in the Staff Class Room. All members who have attended the previous Christmas parties will be sure to come and new members are assured of a jolly evening.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

ANNUAL PARTY.

This year's get-together of the Benefit Association promises to be unusually diverting. Every member is entitled to one full non-transferable ticket which includes admission to a whist party, dance, vaudeville show and buffet lunch. The party is to be at The Chateau Dansant, Huntington Avenue on the evening of February first. Members may purchase tickets for friends at cost, which will probably be about a dollar and twenty-

five cents a ticket. The Entertainment Committee (which must include Santa Claus!) is working out details and will launch a full announcement in a later issue of LIBRARY LIFE.

SICK LIST.

Our "invalid" members of the last few weeks include Miss Katie F. Albert, Librarian of Jamaica Plain Branch, Miss Bessie Doherty, of the Branch Department, Miss Olive Neilson of Dorchester Branch, and Mr. Bernard O'Brien of the Engineer and Janitor Department. LIBRARY LIFE welcomes them back.

We regret to hear that Mr. Nils Herland of the Engineer and Janitor Department is suffering from a septic lacerated finger; we hope to see him back again very soon.

ARE YOU IN GOOD HEALTH? IF SO, READ THIS!

Do you remember when you were last sick? And when convalescing, how big the small things of life looked? And during those long, listless days how pleased you were to hear the postman's ring and to receive those heartwarming letters and attractive, cheery notes of sympathy and well wishes? They proved more potent than many pills!

Members of the Boston Public Library Staff, Central and Branches, belong to one big family — YOUR FAMILY. When members of that family are ill the Relief Committee would like to suggest that those who are well remember them.

Won't you send a little card
If you can't a letter
To help a sick associate
Feel a whole lot better?

The Relief Committee of the
B. P. L. E. B. A.

CALENDAR.

- Thu., Dec. 3, 8.00 p.m. New England Earthquakes. Yesterday, To-day and To-morrow.
Kirtley Fletcher Mather, S.B., Ph.D., Associate Professor of Physiography, Harvard University.
- Sun., Dec. 6, 3.30 p.m. Balearic Islands and Cataluña.
Ralph Adams Cram, Litt.D., LL.D.
- Thu., Dec. 10, 8.00 p.m. Holiday Rambles in the Highlands and Lowlands of Europe.
Olive C. Grigor.

- Sun., Dec. 13, 3.30 p.m. Recital of Shakespeare's "Taming of the Shrew."
Walter Bradley Tripp, Professor, Emerson College.
- Sun., Dec. 13, 7.30 p.m. Reading of Dickens's "Christmas Carol."
Walter Bradley Tripp, Professor, Emerson College.
- Mon., Dec. 14, 3.00 p.m. Alaska: the Land of Far Delight.
Mrs. Charles B. Hall.
- Thu., Dec. 17, 8.00 p.m. The Wonderful Story of Migration.
Mrs. Harriet U. Goode.
- Sun., Dec. 20, 3.30 p.m. Palestrina and Liturgical Music: in recognition of Palestrina's Quatercentenary.
Mrs. Justine B. Ward, Pius X School of Liturgical Music, New York City.
- Sun., Dec. 20, 8.00 p.m. Christmas Pageant.
Community Service.
- Mon., Dec. 21, 8.00 p.m. Christmas Pageant.
Community Service.
- Wed., Dec. 23, 3.30 p.m. Christmas Pageant.
Community Service.
- Sun., Dec. 27, 3.30 p.m. Wordsworth.
E. Charlton Black, LL.D., Professor of English, Boston University.
- Mon., Dec. 28, 3.00 p.m. Christmas: Music arranged by Mrs. Robert Nichols; Message.
Mrs. Minnie Meserve Soule.
- Wed., Dec. 30, 8.00 p.m. Staff Club. Christmas Party.
- Sun., Jan. 3, 3.30 p.m. The World's Great Songs.
Mme. Beale Morey.
- Wed., Jan. 6, 3.00 p.m. The Influence of Shakespeare on Scott.
Wilmot Brewer, Ph.D.
- Thu., Jan. 7, 8.00 p.m. The Treasures of the Isabella Stewart Gardner Museum.
Martha A. S. Shannon.
- Sun., Jan. 10, 3.30 p.m. Reading of Shakespeare's "Macbeth."
- Mon., Jan. 11, 3.00 p.m. The Human Voice and How to Read It.
Dr. Walter Babcock Swift, A.B., O.B., M.D., B.L.I.
- Thu., Jan. 14, 8.00 p.m. Cliff-House and Cave Exploration in Arizona.
Alfred Vincent Kidder, Ph.D., Curator of Southwestern American Archeology and Ethnology.
- Sun., Jan. 17, 3.30 p.m. Lincoln House Orchestra.
Jacques Hoffman, conductor.
- Wed., Jan. 20, 2.00 p.m. The Chateau Country of France
Rev. Alwin E. Worman.
- Thu., Jan. 21, 8.00 p.m. The Glory of England: her Cathedrals and Scenic Beauty.
Frederick Parsons, F.R.S.A.
- Thu., Jan. 21, 8.00 p.m. Staff Club. Costume Party.
- Sun., Jan. 24, 3.30 p.m. Visiting an Eastern King.
Mrs. John Clarence Lee.
- Mon., Jan. 25, 3.00 p.m. Virgil — Among the Holy Prophets.
Dr. Davis Wasgatt Clark.
- Thu., Jan. 28, 8.00 p.m. The Land of Evangeline.
Rev. A. T. Kempton, D.D.
- Sun., Jan. 31, 3.30 p.m. The Notable Fiction of the Year.
John Clair Minot, Literary Editor, Boston Herald.
- Mon., Feb. 1. Benefit Association Party.
Chateau Dansant.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume V, Nos. 4-6.

March 15, 1925

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
THE WEST GALLERY—A TRANSFORMATION	25	NEWS NOTES	29
A NEW PERIODICAL DEPARTMENT	26	DUCAL COMPLIMENTS	29
BATES HALL CATALOGUE	26	BRANCH NEWS	30
STAFF CLUB PARTY	26	STAFF CLUB	31
MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB	27	PUBLICATIONS	31
CHAMBER CONCERTS	27	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	31
HEATING AND VENTILATION	27	Anniversary Party	31
EDITORIAL	28	CALENDAR	32

THE NEW WEST GALLERY

A TRANSFORMATION.

The October number of LIBRARY LIFE mentioned the inconvenience of the scaffolding in the West Gallery and the smell of new paint. At that time it was impossible to foresee how long the scaffolding and the smell would persist, or how complete would be the resulting transformation.

For nearly three months the Gallery was "closed," although every effort was made to find books for readers, in spite of the somewhat indiscriminate disarrangement of the cabinets. The place looked like veritable chaos, although there were clues to conduct the wary attendant through the apparently hopeless confusion. A corps of diligent washer-men, followed by an army with paint guns, worked its way over all the exposed surfaces of the Gallery. Walls which had been concealed for twenty years were brought to light, and when the scaffolding was finally removed, everyone was astonished at the clean and shining spaciousness of the room. One by one the cabinets were trundled away to places of concealment, and now the West Gallery stretches broad and vast, suggesting a great ball room quite as much as a busy library reading room. After their

long exclusion, the art students are now back at their old tables, which have been moved closer together, and the place is once more full of activity, even if the books are all out of sight. A number of stools have been provided for the convenience of students with drawing boards.

Aside from the transformation of the West Gallery, a few other changes in the Special Libraries Department should be added to the list given in the October issue. The removal of the pneumatic tubes from the South West Corner Room has added materially to the quietness of the department. A new lantern slide cabinet replaces the boxes and shelves which for many years have held more than half of the collection. The Seventh Alcove has been rearranged as a much needed Open-Shelf Collection of serials in Chemistry. New chairs without arms replace the familiar Windsor Chairs in the reading room and West Gallery, adding much to the available space, though detracting somewhat from the old picturesqueness. In fact, the recent renovation has been a death-blow to picturesqueness; dirt and mystery have vanished together.

The Barton Gallery has been much improved by the removal of the huge "Cab" structures against the window piers. These cabinets and those con-

taining the map collection are now concentrated in the new storage floor built over the Statistical Room, and most of the Fine-Arts cabinets now repose where the maps stood, in the North West Corner Room.

It is sometimes a good thing to realize that even a monumental building may be changed by the application of sufficient energy. Those who were familiar with the West Gallery twenty years ago should revisit it, if only for the sake of the pleasant shock to their eyes on looking down the great room, now suddenly freed from the towering cabinets which obstructed the view, and glistening with fresh paint in place of the old comfortable dinginess. F. H. C.

A NEW PERIODICAL DEPARTMENT.

For some months past the Periodical Department has been going through a process of renewal. New racks have superseded old, those on the tables have vanished and the current periodicals are arranged in groups, each group in alphabetical order. All are numbered and a visible index has been placed in the doorway.

The Periodical Reference Room has been transformed. The ceilings and walls were more than dingy, but ten days ago the welcome sound of hammers was heard and we were soon under a high staging. When this came down the arches had turned white, the panels cream-colored, walls were yellow, and the railings of the galleries dark green.

Six lights hang from the ceiling and give ample illumination. Three long tables take the place of two and a wonderful new light-oak counter-desk with glass top over green baize adds a business-like touch. High bookcases on both sides of the room hold the last ten years of bound volumes of eighty-five of the most used sets.

"Lucifer" alone has not been washed, but from his pedestal at the end of the room looks serenely around as if to say, "I am at last in the midst of order and cleanliness."

F. J. H.

BATES HALL CATALOGUE.

The floor of the Bates Hall Catalogue Station has been re-laid in variegated colors to harmonize with the Istrian and red Verona marble floor of the Delivery Room. The material is of rubber and cotton fibre compressed, and is laid in small sections for convenience of renewal. The catalogue cabinets have been arranged fanwise, giving economy of space and some wall shelving, and uncovering the recessed windows and beautifully panelled oak wainscot, which was formerly hidden. The new arrangement is an experiment, which has some features to recommend it, though old habitués miss their accustomed stools. L. E. T.

STAFF CLUB PARTY.

According to statistics compiled by the Meteorological Department at Washington, this meeting of the staff club is the smallest of the season. Some lay it to a prevalence of blizzards at this time, others to the earthquakes, which are fast becoming a Boston institution. In any case, it is usually necessary to tempt members with promises of remarkable entertainment. This year a costume party proved a wise decision and the number was unusually large.

All periods were represented, from Revolutionary times to date. There was a charming little Dutch girl, direct from Amsterdam. Miss Anna Manning, in her grandmother's brown silk dress, looked exactly like Meg of "Little Women." She took the prize for the quaintest costume; Miss Mary McDonough, in the voluminous skirt and balloon sleeves of the "gay nineties," that for the funniest. It was so difficult to decide which was the prettiest that five names were drawn from and Miss Marion Shumway was heartily congratulated that her Janice Meredith won.

Mr. Herbert McDonald, in the scarlet robes of Mephistopheles, played the piano, Miss Ruth Hayes, a delightful colleen, sang, and Miss Edith von Schoppe and Mr. Neal Gleason danced

a Bowery dance which was one of the funniest things the Club members have ever witnessed. Their costumes were superb, what with Mr. Gleason's patched sweater, skin tight trousers, black eye, and limp unlighted cigarette; Miss von Schoppe's striped dress and her self-conscious slouch. But her hat was the most enchanting part of it all, it was so respectable,—just the sort earnest ladies wear to the Lowell Lectures.

There were games and refreshments and the evening ended with dancing; or if we must be exact, it ended with a terrific shower. Mr. Graham thinks that the only way to circumvent the jinx is to hold the January party in February.

HAVE YOU PAID YOUR CLUB DUES?

M. E. P.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB.

The Club held its midwinter meeting, jointly with the Special Libraries Association of Boston, on January 22. The morning session was addressed by Mr. Fred Telford, of Washington, on "The Personnel Problem in Library Administration," and by Mr. W. Phillip Shatts, of New York, on "The Free Hours: How do Adults use them and how do they want to use them?"; there was also a round-table on the Recruiting and Training of Assistants. In the afternoon there was a symposium, with the subject "How Special Libraries function"; an informing account of the work of the Boston Book-Review Group and an address by Professor Charles Townsend Copeland on "Bacon as an Essayist," followed by delightful readings. The evening session included a reception to Mr. Belden, President of the American Library Association, who spoke on the "Achievements and Hopes of the Association," and an address by Dean Donham, of the Harvard School of Business Administration.

The meeting was followed on January 23, by a Conference on Adult Education, conducted by the State Department of education, at which Mr. Chase, President of the Massachusetts Library Club, spoke on "The Co-op-

eration of Libraries in Adult Education"; and by an important meeting of the Trustees' Section under the chairmanship of Hon. Michael J. Murray, President of the Board of Trustees of the Boston Public Library.

CHAMBER CONCERTS.

The last Sunday in January marked the inauguration of a series of six concerts by the Lenox String Quartet, presented through the generosity of Mrs. Elizabeth S. Coolidge.

To those who have attended Mrs. Coolidge's festivals, either in Pittsfield or Washington, it is a source of great satisfaction and gratitude that these pleasures are being made available to an increasing number of people.

The programmes have been skillfully assembled, not primarily with any educational scheme in mind, but incidentally including master works of Gibbons and Purcell, of the sixteenth and seventeenth centuries, as well as standard works of Haydn, Mozart, Beethoven, Schumann and Brahms. Each programme, except one, contains a composition by an American. It is an unusual opportunity to hear in one series works by Loeffler, Mason, Smith, Griffes and Jacobi, and it is safe to say these will stand well in comparison with the work of the modern Italian, Respighi.

As may be supposed, the artists play to crowded halls.

R. G. A.

HEATING AND VENTILATION.

The automatic heating apparatus recently installed, is intended to insure an approximately even temperature in all parts of the building. Thermostats, instruments which are affected by a change in temperature, control apparatus which is operated by compressed air, opening and closing valves connected with the radiators. By this means any excessive variation in temperature is corrected almost at once.

New fans, air washers, and the motors to run them are in process of installation, in connection with the existing system of air passages.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

Mildred R. Bradbury	Zoltán Haraszti
William R. Brewster	Marion A. McCarthy
Laura R. Gibbs	Mary E. Prim
William F. A. Graham	Harriet Swift
Lucien E. Taylor	

Vol. V, Nos. 4-6, Jan.-Mar. 1926

Editor-in-charge for this issue, Miss Laura R. Gibbs.

RESPONSIBLE.

There are at least three requisites to the smooth and steady operation of an engine: steam, or some other source of power; oil, or some other good lubricant; and a governor. In our library engine the function of governor is performed by the Auditor. Hidden away in a room which most of us never see, but working with ceaseless regularity, it is the Auditor who keeps track of what we do and sees to it that we are paid for it without fail and without fluctuation. We are seldom conscious of her beneficent activity, seldom grateful for her vigilance in our behalf. The Paymaster comes on Monday, and we hastily seize our week's stipend, and think no more of it; but the Paymaster's hand is guided and controlled by the Auditor's head; if she makes a mistake someone suffers.

She didn't make a mistake. Miss Adelaide A. Nichols, for over fifty-one years the Library Auditor, knew her job, and never shirked it, or abated for a day her care that we should all receive our just dues. For fifty-eight years an employee of the Library, few of us can remember when she was not entrusted with the financial responsibility which she carried so ably. She was at home in figures—the figures on which the welfare of every one of us depended—and, if we have been able to pay our bills, it is because she saw to it that the City paid its debts to us promptly and regularly. Her accuracy was recognized at City Hall,

no less than in the Library. With the City Auditor and the City Treasurer, what she said went unquestioned; her figures were always right. There are many responsible men and women on the Library staff; but Miss Nichols was the very incarnation of the quality, and we are the poorer for her going.

There is, however, a figure beside the Auditor—the man who makes up the evening and Sunday payroll; and we are fortunate that this other sturdy old soldier is still with us. Mr. Blaisdell completed his fiftieth year of Library service on the seventeenth of February; few have ever known the workings of the Library and the delicate inter-relations of all its parts—human and mechanical—so fully and sympathetically as he. He has become an institution among us—one whose judgment and understanding we trust, whom we love and esteem as the friend of us all. Steady and faithful, we rest on his sense of responsibility and know that he will not disappoint us; he is a veritable “Old Reliable,” a symbol of stability. We have missed him in his illness, and we now rejoice in his recovery and return to his post.

The greatest responsibility is often carried by those who say the least about it. The work on the Library's accounts is not spectacular; but on Miss Nichols and Mr. Blaisdell we have all depended in no small measure for our well-being as servants of the Library and the City of Boston. To both of them *LIBRARY LIFE*, speaking for the whole staff, expresses heartfelt thanks.

This number of *LIBRARY LIFE* was planned for January, then for February, and is finally appearing in March. The news of January was stale in February, and now it is dead—*requiescat in pacem!*

Which explains why our spicy accounts of all the gay doings of the Christmas season, in Central Library and Branches, have had to go, a sacrifice to the long series of incidents which have delayed publication for two months. The Library kept Christmas: no one will forget it; but as news—well, wait till next year and another recurrence of the blessed holiday.

NEWS NOTES.

Mr. Belden's duties as president of the American Library Association took him to Chicago at the end of December where he presided over the Mid-Winter Meeting of the Council. This meeting has gradually become the center of a group of gatherings which attract some four hundred people and which have more the atmosphere of the earlier meetings of the association, before it grew so big that many people feel lost at the conferences.

This is one of several occasions on which Mr. Belden has appeared in the Middle West in his official capacity and the reports which come to our ears presage a gratifying climax to his year with the anniversary meeting next October.

Mr. Chase has recently been elected Librarian of the New University Club of Boston, whose building is in course of erection at the corner of Trinity place and Stuart Street.

Miss Guerrier made a western trip during the holidays, looking into the branch work in Cleveland and Detroit.

Mr. Nils J. Herland, who entered the service on March 10, 1895, and has for some years been Assistant Engineer, was retired on January first for disability.

Mr. Herland has given years of faithful service. He has also been much interested in charitable work and is a trustee of the Norwegian Home.

Among the month's visitors to the Library was Professor Paul De Reul, of the University of Brussels, who is this year Belgian Exchange Professor to the United States.

"Have you Shakespeare's 'Captain Brassbound's Confessions?'" *Information Office*.

On January 23, sixteen of the Boys' Division of the Newton Y. M. C. A., led by Mr. Thompson, were shown through the Central Library by Mr. Lucien E. Taylor.

Miss Adelaide A. Nichols, Auditor of the Boston Public Library since 1868, resigned from the service on December 31, 1925. Miss Nichols has the good wishes of all her old friends on the staff for a happy leisure.

Miss Helen Schubarth has been appointed Auditor, beginning January 1, 1926. Miss Schubarth has been assistant in the auditor's Office for several years.

Mr. Robert A. Howes, Assistant to the Director, resigned from the service on January 30, 1926. Mr. Howes has accomplished much toward the refurbishing and cleaning of the Central Building and has also put through many improvements in Central and the Branches since he came to the Library. LIBRARY LIFE wishes him every success in his next position.

DUCAL COMPLIMENTS.

In December the Library exhibited material loaned by the Duc de Trévisé, who is visiting the United States on an official mission to make known the Franco-American society "La Sauvegarde de l'Art Français," which has for its purpose the preservation of French historical monuments. The exhibit consisted of manuscripts, photographs and many original water-colors by the Duke himself. Of special interest were autographed letters from Marshals of France and other individuals of note.

The following is a translation from comments made by the Duke for LIBRARY LIFE:

"One of the most graceful and perfect monuments of Boston — the Athens of America — is the Public Library. So I was delighted when I learned that the Exhibition Room had been offered to me, and that under the dome with its starry lights, and around the classic Venuses and the Shepherd of Arcadia, I could arrange the paintings and photographs of the picturesque and crumbling buildings of our provinces. One of my most precious memories will be that of the exhibition. Mr. Belden and Mr. Chenery, as well as the entire staff of the Library, have shown an interest for which I am grateful."

BRANCH NEWS.

ANDREW SQUARE: The recent window display here, depicting winter sports, was particularly appropriate and attracted much attention. A snow covered hill, just made for skiing, a small frozen pond and smooth hard tracts of snow proved enticing to various little figures on skis, skates, and sleds. For on-lookers who unfortunately could not participate in these invigorating pastimes, the next best thing, books about them, were suggested and supplied.

BRIGHTON: So many people came to the Brighton Library on Tuesday, January 26, to hear Dr. Henry Hallam Saunderson lecture on The Painter, Sargent, that all the chairs which could be crowded into the reading room were filled. Other people stood through the lecture.

This was the fourth time in recent months that the lecturer was Dr. Henry Hallam Saunderson. His audiences have followed his interpretations of literature and art with deep interest. With a fine set of stereopticon slides he presented the subject of John Singer Sargent's famous mural decorations in the Boston Public Library, and referred to the new Life of Sargent written by another literary man of the neighborhood, Mr. William H. Downes.

CODMAN SQUARE: Miss Ruth Hayes, formerly employed in the Children's Room at the Central Library, is now acting as special assistant at this branch.

Unusual requests received by our librarians:—

"I want a map by Atlas."

"Have you got 'Tales of a Wayside Inn' by Shakespeare?"

"The Teacher said that I should get some annygoats about Titian."

HYDE PARK: "You have doubtless heard about fairies and brownies, but have you ever seen or heard, or even heard of, a Menehune? They are the Hawaiian version of the little folk, and you can read about them in 'Hawaii, the Rainbow Land,' by Catherine Pope.

"To have tea with a Chinese president

would be a sufficiently exciting event for most people, but Upton Close embroiders the adventure by bringing in the President's whole family, including the latest baby. And then, as though determined to show that truth is stranger than fiction, he tells right on the second page of the book about the bloody tragedy that took place! This "Land of the Laughing Buddha" is a romance—the deep, vivid, rather fearful romance of modern China. In the rustling of its pages you can hear the great dragon slowly unfolding its wings and lashing its tail."

These interesting extracts are reprinted from "The Book Corner" of the Hyde Park Gazette Times, a column edited weekly by Marion Hulburt Parks, an assistant in the Hyde Park Branch.

JAMAICA PLAIN: Several fine pictures of the U. S. Frigate "Constitution" were placed at this Branch in January, as a means of helping some of the pupils in their lesson on that subject.

Last year an exhibit of books suitable for Lenten Reading was placed within easy access of the public, and proved to be of value, especially as an appropriate poster was used in connection with the display. Miss Kelley selected and arranged the collection and is planning to repeat the same this Lenten Season.

Miss Mary P. Swain, former Librarian, visited the Branch recently and was cordially welcomed by all. Her interest is as keen as in the past.

MATTAPAN: Miss Lois Clarke has been made librarian of this branch, which has grown rapidly this winter.

ROSLINDALE: Pupils from the drawing class, ninth grade, Washington Irving Schools, made a visit to the Roslindale Branch Library recently, accompanied by their teacher. The object of the visit was to aid them in their lessons on Colonial Art.

Many excellent drawings were made from the plates on exhibition.

The teacher was so pleased with the benefits derived from the visit, that she decided to come frequently. The next lesson to be given will be on Egyptian Art.

SOUTH BOSTON: Cards have been received at the South Boston Branch from a retired member of the Staff, Miss Ellen A. Eaton, who is spending her third winter at St. Petersburg, Florida.

WARREN STREET: "Say, lady," asked our talkative conductor, "What's that in your window? I've craned my neck for a week and haven't found out yet."

"Gee," says the youngster, "that looks swell, a show an' everythin'."

"Very interesting, I'm sure," is the comment of our dignified matron.

All this is nothing more or less than an attempt of little Warren Street to stage an opera all its own.

What care we if our theatre is but of cardboard, or our background a poster display? The stage is set and all the players on it. Madame La Tosca in all her finery (even to her matchless pearls) and fair and gentle Marguerite are singing a thrilling duet to the gallant and amorous Don Juan. How can we mere mortals interfere if our temperamental artists all decide to sing different roles at one performance?

Whatever the critics may have to say, they must admit that the audience was large and appreciative.

WEST END: Intelligence Test Applied. — An unassuming gentleman whom a West End attendant recognized as a visitor at the last Massachusetts Library Club Meeting which was devoted to intelligence tests, sauntered into the Branch and asked in a timid voice, "Oh, lady, can you tell me where I can find the length of the Brooklyn Bridge?" Thereupon the attendant immediately handed him the *Brooklyn Daily Eagle Almanac*. Was he testing our intelligence or our service?

WEST ROXBURY: A Book Review, on January 19; the subject "Antiques" and the reviewer Mrs. Arnold; under the auspices of the Literary Committee of the Woman's Club and the Library. No wonder over a hundred listeners were held at attention for more than an hour.

This was one of the series given in this branch each year. On this oc-

casional the illustrations included many fine examples of the subject of the lecture — Hepplewhite, Chippendale, and Sheraton furniture, pictures of early American life, a Paisley shawl, an old sampler, and a beautiful Colonial silver teapot.

PUBLICATIONS.

Brief reading list No. 34, "A selected list of inexpensive books for Christmas presents, with names of publishers, prices, and notes," was compiled by Alice M. Jordan, Supervisor of Work with Children. This was prepared in response to requests for advice about books that have value and yet are not expensive — no book named costs more than a dollar.

While this list was especially in demand at Christmas time, the value "lasts" through the whole year. The subheadings are:— "For readers under ten years old" and "For readers over ten years old."

STAFF CLUB.

This month, members of the Staff Club were particularly patriotic and celebrated the achievements of two great Americans at a "Presidents' Party" held in the Staff Class Room, on Friday evening, February 19.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION.

ANNIVERSARY PARTY.

The twenty-fourth anniversary of the Association was celebrated at the Chateau Dansant, on the evening of February 1. A concert and vaudeville show preceded the dancing.

Among the entertainers were Misses Peggy McEachern, Agnes McNerney, Mary Crowley, Edith von Schoppe, and Katharine Olson; Thomas Quinn, John Heffernan, Neal Gleason, and John Keefe. Mr. Chase, Vice-President, and William C. Prout, formerly of the Library staff, told of the work of the Association.

The grand march was led by James S. Kennedy, President, with Miss M. Florence Cufflin, Vice-President, followed by more than 150 couples.

During the evening special souvenirs were awarded to Misses Mathilda Biggi, Margaret Calnan, Mildred Manning; and to Messrs. Daniel Sheeran, James Mungivan and John O'Brien.

The committee in charge consisted of Mr. William F. A. Graham, Chairman, Misses Alice M. Kernan, Angeline Hovestadt, Mary M. McDonough, Mr. Archibald Gleason, and the officers of the Association. W. F. A. G.

FEBRUARY MEETING.

There was a meeting of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association, in the Lecture Hall of the Central Library, at 12 noon, on Wednesday, February 17, the business being the nomination of officers for the year 1926-27.

SICK LIST.

The many friends of Mr. Frank C. Blaisdell, Chief of the Issue Department, will be pleased to hear of his recovery from a severe attack of pneumonia. Mr. Blaisdell is a charter member of the Benefit Association and has been for years the treasurer. He has asked *LIBRARY LIFE* to express through its columns his deep appreciation of all the kind messages sent him.

To Mr. Lee Dunn, of the Executive Department, who has recovered from an attack of appendicitis; Miss Mary Santino, of the Issue Department, who has just undergone a minor operation; and Mr. James Sullivan of the Shelf Department, *LIBRARY LIFE* extends sympathy and good wishes.

CALENDAR.

- Feb. 4, 8.00 p.m. History of Lighting.
W. Perry Fiske.
- Feb. 7, 3.30 p.m. An Afternoon with Dickens.
Members of the Dickens Fellowship.
- Feb. 7, 8.00 p.m. Concert by Lenox Quartet.
- Feb. 8, 3.30 p.m. Observance of Ruskin's Birthday: John Ruskin.
Dr. E. Charlton Black.
- Feb. 11, 8.00 p.m. Our National Forests.
Philip W. Ayres.

- Feb. 14, 3.30 p.m. The Theatre from Henry Irving to Walter Hampden.
Frank W. C. Hersey, A.M.
- Feb. 14, 8.00 p.m. Scenes from Shakespeare.
Boston Little Theatre Players.
- Feb. 15, 3.00 p.m. The Spell of the Italian Lakes.
Mrs. James Frederick Hopkins.
- Feb. 17, 12.00 m. Meeting of Emplollyees' Benefit Association.
- Feb. 18, 8.00 p.m. The Jubilee Year of 1925.
Rev. William M. Stinson, S. J.
- Feb. 19, 8.00 p.m. Staff Club Party.
- Feb. 21, 3.30 p.m. The Folk Song in the Concert Hall.
John Tasker Howard.
- Feb. 21, 8.00 p.m. Concert by the Lenox Quartet.
- Feb. 25, 8.00 p.m. An Historical Pilgrimage from Maine to Florida.
Alfred Johnson.
- Feb. 28, 3.30 p.m. The Portrait of a Modern Poet.
Robert E. Rogers, A.M.
- Feb. 28, 8.00 p.m. Concert by the Lenox Quartet.
- Mar. 4, 8.00 p.m. Picturesque England from Chester to Clovelly.
Ellen E. Page.
- Mar. 7, 3.30 p.m. In Word and Tone: a Program of Associated Poetry and Music.
Laura Huxtable Porter.
- Mar. 7, 8.00 p.m. Concert by Lenox Quartet.
- Mar. 8, 3.00 p.m. What's What in Books.
John Clair Minot.
- Mar. 11, 8.00 p.m. Motor Gypsying and Mountain Climbing across the Continent.
Carl S. Whittier.
- Mar. 14, 3.30 p.m. Theatre Going in Europe To-day.
Albert Hatton Gilmer.
- Mar. 14, 8.00 p.m. Concert by the Lenox Quartet.
- Mar. 18, 8.00 p.m. French Highways and Byways.
Prof. André Morize.
- Mar. 20, 3.00 p.m. American Poetry Association. Memorial meeting to Miss Helen Archibald Clarke.
- Mar. 21, 3.30 p.m. Lincoln House Orchestra.
Jacques Hoffman, Conductor.
- Mar. 23, 8.00 p.m. Staff Club party. Travel talk.
- Mar. 25, 8.00 p.m. Our New and Proposed National Parks, East and West.
George H. Browne.
- Mar. 28, 3.30 p.m. Trails and Trail Building in the White Mountains.
Charles Winthrop Blood.
- Apr. 1, 8.00 p.m. City Health and Emergencies.
Dr. Hollis Godfrey.

AMID THE CRIME WAVE.

Small Boy at receiving desk — "Here's six cents; I wanna bail out my card." —
Cleveland Public Library Log.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff Bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Volume V, Nos. 7-8.

May 15, 1926

CONTENTS

	PAGE		PAGE
AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION	33	MORE CHAMBER CONCERTS	37
THE PSYCHE OF CAPUA	34	MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB	37
MODEL TOWN LIBRARY	34	SPECIAL LIBRARIES ASSOCIATION OF BOSTON	37
STAFF CLUB PLAYS	35	NEWS NOTES	38
EXHIBITIONS	35	BRANCH NEWS	39
EDITORIALS	36	BENEFIT ASSOCIATION	39
THE DIRECTOR	37	CALENDAR	40

THE AMERICAN LIBRARY ASSOCIATION

Mr. Belden's presidency of the American Library Association has focused the attention of local library workers on the activities of the A. L. A. to a degree greater even than in previous years. The Association has always been firmly supported in the East, but this season the "at home" character of its management has aroused exceptional interest. It so happens, also, that at this particular time the A. L. A. has in hand several notable investigations whose outcome is likely to have a profound influence on the development of library service throughout the country during the next decade. Three of the more important of these are: Library Extension; Education for Librarianship; and Adult Education. Committees on each of these subjects are now functioning, and the material which they are collecting will be of the utmost importance in planning all programs of library reform.

Adult Education has occupied a prominent place in library discussion during the past year, and a good deal has been said of it in these columns. According to Nicholas Murray Butler, "After the work of the continuation school is ended, the field of adult education begins. Its instrument of greatest usefulness is the public library, and its organizing and directing force should be the scholarship of the

university." Many ways of promoting Adult Education, such as lectures, museums, etc., suggest themselves; however, the series of brief reading lists, entitled "Reading with a Purpose," which has been so conspicuously displayed in the main hall during the last few months, is perhaps the contribution most intimately connected with libraries as such.

In an endeavor to create and maintain an adequate supply of well-trained librarians, who shall fulfill Dr. Butler's requirement for the "organizing and directing force," a Committee on Education for Librarianship has been created. One of its chief functions will be to study the existing library schools, and to formulate plans whereby they may be improved and strengthened. So too, the Committee on Library Extension has ample work laid out for it in determining what proportion of the people of the country are without library service, and how the various agencies, private and tax-supported, expend the sums at their disposal.

Undoubtedly the success of these activities, especially the last two, will be very greatly promoted by the magnificent endowment fund which the Carnegie Corporation of New York has recently established for the A. L. A. No greater tribute to the ideals and achievements of the Association could have been offered than this fund of over four million dollars which is to be expended under its direction. Of this sum, two millions is to be

devoted to library schools—half to those already in existence, and half to the founding of a graduate school of librarianship at some great university, where a certain number of picked library workers will be able to work upon the solution of library problems under nearly ideal conditions. A third million is for the direct endowment of the American Library Association, and the income from it will be a welcome addition to the annual budget, which now totals close to \$400,000. The remaining sum will be applied to the current work of the Association and the library schools during the ten-year period of capitalization of the Carnegie Corporation gift.

With such a financial program laid out for it, the A. L. A. assumes daily a more and more commanding position in the professional and educational worlds. Its eight thousand members are drawn from all over North America, and membership is expected to reach ten thousand by the time of the semi-centennial celebration in October. To such an organization the country must look for the solution of many pressing educational problems which must be solved speedily if our complex civilization is not to break down. This year, our Director stands at the head of that organization. To support the activities of the Association in every possible way is thus at once our privilege and our deepest pleasure.

W. B. B.

THE PSYCHE OF CAPUA

A marble replica of the Psyche of Capua, given to the Library by Mrs. Langdon Pearse, has been accepted by the Trustees and approved by the Art Commission. The original was found in the amphitheatre at Capua, about the year 1750, and is now in the Museo Nazionale, Naples. This beautiful fragment of Greek sculpture is widely known, and has been attributed to the time of Praxiteles. From this statue, it is said, the author of "The Last Days of Pompeii" formed the ideal of his heroine Ione. The replica is at present in the Director's Office.

Swarthy foreigner (evidently mistaking the library for another department): "Lady, I want a bath."

MODEL TOWN LIBRARY

Modeltown, planned and set up for one week in Horticultural Hall by the Massachusetts League of Women Voters, was almost as exciting as a Food Fair, only there weren't so many samples. The Modeltown Library stood next the church, balancing the town hall, as is fitting. Three organizations combined to make the library a place of charm and usefulness: the Massachusetts Division of Public Libraries, the Special Libraries Association of Boston, and the Boston Public Library.

The Division of Public Libraries displayed three important posters. One illustrated the growth of free public libraries in the state, another showed how a model town library provides for its foreign-born residents, and the third how the revenue from cities and towns in Massachusetts was spent in 1923, the latest available statistics. Libraries, we find, received the extravagant allotment of one per cent of the total budget.

The Special Libraries exhibit had displays from various semi-public libraries of Boston and Cambridge. There were also some historical color prints which would make a collector's mouth water.

The Boston Public Library offered a collection of suggested reading for children and grown-ups. There was a small table for the children strewn with attractive magazines, and a poster illustrating Robert Louis Stevenson's "Travels" announced a story hour.

For the grown-ups there were shelves of shiny new biography, essays, poetry and travel. (By some accident of the alphabet a life of Woodrow Wilson was sandwiched in between Queen Victoria and Brigham Young.) The display included a History of the Library, an album of branch views, and a copy of *More Books*, the new Bulletin; also the map of Boston showing the location of the branches, which attracted much interest. There were flowers galore, suggesting that someone might donate a fund to the Library for a perpetual supply.

The famous "Push Cart" of Tyler Street Branch was again called into service to interest people in the "Reading With a Purpose" pamphlets of the American Library Association. Three hundred and forty-eight of these were sold; a few were

taken by visitors who were under the impression that they were "samples." "Psychology" proved the most popular of the series. Who says that New England is no longer the literary centre of the country?

Modeltown has been dismantled, but the Library is richer by extra copies of a number of the recent books which went to make up the tempting collection.

M. E. P.

STAFF CLUB PLAYS

IT HAPPENED IN SOMERVILLE, in a little tailor shop where Jacob Goldberg, as Schmitt, presided from the top of his counter—a tale of boldfaced robbery. The plausible young man and his girl, who waited for his coat to be repaired, were "Bill Brewster" and "Bessie Doherty" unmistakably, but with just enough vulgarity in their air to make us wonder what was coming. What did come was Mr. Haraszti as a most convincing Russian refugee, and a confidence game in which the poor tailor parted with his savings and was ignominiously bound and gagged. Then "Mr. Wheeler, Himself"! Could anyone else so calmly stroll into a scene of violence, so unconcernedly use the girl as his excuse for helping the criminals to escape—after having restored Schmitt's savings—and so nonchalantly smoke his cigar while he assured the policeman (Archibald Gleason) that he had seen no one, that Schmitt, still under the counter, had just stepped out, and that he was waiting. When the policeman had gone Schmitt was released and Mr. Wheeler strolled out again, leaving him a wiser, if not a sadder tailor.

Miss Christine Hayes's play was so well written that it needed no apology for "home talent," and none but "home talent" could so well have fitted it to her cast.

In place of the usual long intermission between amateur plays, the curtains were parted almost immediately to disclose an easel with several wonderful pictures, which Mr. Chenery informed us were to be shown by a 'distinguished critic, who was somewhat delayed. In the interim he read a bit of Dooley manuscript which he had discovered in the West Gallery—a few observations on painting, too de-

licious for publication, as was also the lecture delivered by the affected Mr. Norman de Lacey (still Mr. Chenery). He discussed the pictures of the library, a remarkable collection in up-to-the-minute technique, which he interpreted in ultra modern fashion, and thereby quite upset the equilibrium of his audience.

The "extra edition" of *Library Lies* was then distributed, and before we knew it the second play was on. This was "Suppressed Desires," by George Cram Cook and Susan Glaspell. The psychoanalysis-mad Mrs. Brewster (Miss von Schoppe) so persecuted her poor husband (Lee Dunn) by analyzing his every act and thought and dream, that it was no wonder he was driven to proposing divorce,—but even here he was balked by his sister-in-law (Miss Brown), who considered the only satisfactory solution to be his marrying her. Of course the wife eschews psychoanalysis forever and the little sister is sent home to her own husband.

Of all persecuted people Lee was the most persecuted and his despair roused the sympathy of the audience, though it must be admitted it was a sympathy more than tinged with merriment. Miss von Schoppe's acting was good and her flow of language marvelous, while Miss Brown made a very innocent little victim, until at the end she rose nobly to assert her right to be happy.

At the business meeting which preceded, Mr. Blaisdell, Mr. Clegg and Miss Ross were elected Nominating Committee. The evening ended with refreshments.

L. R. G.

RECENT EXHIBITIONS

The outstanding exhibitions in the Fine Arts Department during the past few weeks have been: Original oils by R. Farrington Elwell; a leaf from the Gutenberg Bible; the *House Beautiful* cover design competition; Books from the library of John Adams; Historical material commemorating the 150th anniversary of the Evacuation of Boston; "Be Kind to Animals" Week prize posters.

At present, Bromoils by Leonard Craske, and reproductions of the work of the Pre-Raphaelite Brotherhood are displayed.

LIBRARY LIFE

Staff bulletin of the Boston Public Library

Issued on the fifteenth of each month under the direction of an editorial board of the Library staff.

EDITORIAL BOARD.

FRANK H. CHASE, *Chairman*

Mildred R. Bradbury
William R. Brewster
Laura R. Gibbs
Zoltán Haraszti

Marion A. McCarthy
Mary E. Prim
Harriet Swift
Lucien E. Taylor

Vol. V, Nos. 7-8, Apr.-May, 1926

Editor-in-charge for this issue, Miss Laura R. Gibbs.

"MORE BOOKS"

The heartiest congratulations are due both to the Library and to its editor, Dr. Haraszti, on the first issues of *More Books*, the new Bulletin. It is fully worthy of its distinguished predecessors in the Library's long series of bulletins; and in form and in spirit it is abreast of the minute. LIBRARY LIFE is proud of its new sister.

More Books makes a strong appeal even before one opens it. The cover is beautiful in design and attractive in color; the form is generous; the title is winning—none could be more so. More books and ever more books—what function of a library is so vital, so beneficent, as the unceasing acquisition of more books?

Inside, the new Bulletin is quite as satisfying. It begins with scholarly articles based upon the treasures of the Library: a sympathetic account of "John Adams among his books;" a bibliographical study of Montaigne; a delightfully fresh and interesting sketch of Bacon's life; a series of articles on the way in which John Adams annotated his books as he read, in the course of which are published for the first time these characteristic and often spicy comments from Adams's hand.

There follow sections devoted to Library Notes—news of library progress at home and abroad—and to the editor's comments on certain books and magazines selected from the output of the month. And then comes the real matter of the Bulletin—the list of new books, returning now to the old plan of a classified list, brought up to date and provided with help-

ful notes on a large number of the titles. No effort is spared in making this list the useful tool which it ought to be.

We have waited long for such a bulletin, which should speak for the Library in the tones of to-day. Jewett, Winsor, Swift and others have made the Bulletin of the Boston Public Library an honored name in the past; under the new title, *More Books*, the Bulletin enters on a fresh period of usefulness, with an appeal directed to the Bostonians of 1926. The new publication has an ambitious program; but LIBRARY LIFE, which has experienced the happy power of Dr. Haraszti's editorship, feels confident that the promise of the first two numbers of *More Books* will be amply fulfilled.

Every member of the staff should be prepared to say YES to the invitation to join the American Library Association. The Association is worth belonging to at any time, but this year, when Mr. Belden is President, it is especially our affair. Both loyalty to our chief and enthusiasm for our profession are involved. In the campaign for 10,000 members this year, the Boston Public Library should stand in the forefront. The appeal will soon be presented. How many recruits can we muster? The Association is ours, whether we will or no; we ought all to be on the roster.

This has been a hard year for LIBRARY LIFE. Conditions in the Printing Department—changes in equipment and in personnel, and the pressure of much important new work—have been adverse to regular publication of our indispensable sheet, and some have wondered if the paper were not moribund. Not a bit of it; anyone who has had the privilege of attending editorial meetings can testify to that. It has been with difficulty that the Editor has restrained his colleagues from seizing a mimeograph and issuing the paper by main force over his head. We have wished to preserve the traditional form of LIBRARY LIFE, and thus far it has seemed wiser to skip a month—or two or three—than to break the file. We hope for steadier going next year. In the meantime, if anyone suggests that LIBRARY LIFE is losing its stride, just refer him to the editors.

THE DIRECTOR

Mr. Belden attended the meeting of the Southeastern Library Association at Signal Mountain, Chattanooga, Tennessee, April 22 to 24. His first address was given on the morning of the 22d, before the students of the University of Chattanooga. On the evening of April 23, following a "Book Dinner," he gave an address on the work of the American Library Association and the opportunity for extension of library work in the Southeastern states. On the next evening there was an informal conference with Mr. Belden, most of whose time at Chattanooga was devoted to the work of the Commission on the Library and Adult Education.

On Monday, April 26, the Dixie Portland Memorial Library was dedicated at Richards City. Greetings from the American Library Association were extended by Mr. Belden.

This taste of southern hospitality, and the beauty of the country itself, next enticed him to Atlanta, where on April 28, at the Carnegie Library a dinner was given in his honor and in celebration of the fiftieth anniversary of the American Library Association. On the same day he addressed the students of the Atlanta Library School.

On the 30th, Mr. Belden visited Hampton Institute, Va., as the guest of Principal Gregg. He spoke before the students of the library school of the Institute, recently organized by the A. L. A. under the direction of Miss Florence R. Curtis.

Mr. Belden returned to the Library on May 3 and disappeared again on the fifth to speak at the Library Institute, which was held this year in the State Normal School at Fitchburg.

MORE CHAMBER CONCERTS

Another series of chamber music concerts has been arranged by Mrs. Elizabeth S. Coolidge for the season of 1926-27. Reports of the enjoyment which this year's series gave to the people who filled the Library lecture hall at every concert found their way to Mrs. Coolidge. She has generously offered five concerts as her gift and has arranged with the Library

of Congress and the Curtis Institute of Philadelphia to give two others. The schedule is as follows:

October 17.	Pro Arte Quartet of Brussels.
November 21.	Lenox Quartet.
December 19.	Flonzaley Quartet.
January 16.	San Francisco Quartet.
February 13.	South Mountain Quartet.
March 13.	Curtis Quartet of Philadelphia.
April 10.	London String Quartet.

MASSACHUSETTS LIBRARY CLUB

The summer meeting of the Club will be held at the Hotel Pilgrim, in Plymouth, on Friday and Saturday, June 25 and 26. Plans for the meeting are well under way, and an attractive program is assured. The fall meeting will be omitted, in order not to interfere with the A. L. A. Conference in October.

The March issue of the Club *Bulletin* was the biennial *Handbook*, containing a full list of the 771 members, 51 of whom are from the Boston Public Library. Is your name there?

S. L. A. B.

The March meeting of the Special Libraries Association of Boston was held at the offices of the Dennison Manufacturing Company, Framingham. The visit to the Library and tours through the entire plant preceded a dinner at which the members were guests of the Company. Later Mr. J. S. Keir, Economic Adviser to the Directors, outlined to the Association the Dennison Partnership Plan.

The April meeting, at the Charlestown Navy Yard, began with a trip over the U.S.S. Constitution, conducted by Rear Admiral Elliott Snow, who later addressed the meeting on the Navy Library at Washington and the documents in the War Records Office.

The annual meeting of the Association is to be held May 22 at Thompson's Island in Boston Harbor.

By the courtesy of Lieut.-Commander Brandt, U.S.N., a beautiful model of the frigate Constitution is now on exhibition in the Venetian Alcove, just outside the door of the Children's Room at the Central Library, where it gives delight to hundreds of visitors.

NEWS NOTES

Inadvertently crowded out of our last numbers of *LIBRARY LIFE* was an acknowledgment of the graceful act of Miss Maud M. Morse, formerly of the Branch Department, who on Armistice Day placed a laurel wreath upon our War Memorial tablet in the Courtyard. Miss Morse, always active in behalf of our soldier boys, unveiled the tablet when it was dedicated.

Mr. E. B. Tewksbury was appointed March 5, 1926, Assistant in Charge of the Barton-Ticknor Division of the Special Libraries.

LIBRARY LIFE offers hearty greetings to the latest organ of Library opinion, *Library Lies*, of which the first issue was distributed at the April meeting of the Staff Club. It is the spiciest sheet which has appeared in the Library since the decrease of that lively publication, *The Bugle*.

Twenty-five Girl Scouts, Lily of the Valley, Troop 1, and Bluebird, Troop 2, of Holliston, Mass., made the Library the first objective of their visit to Boston on Saturday, May 8.

Donald F. Walsh, formerly of the Catalogue Department, is Instructor in French and Spanish in Phillips Academy, Exeter, N. H.

On Saturday, May 1, the Library telephone was transferred from the Back Bay Exchange to the automatic exchange—the new number is Kenmore 1500.

Congratulations are in order on the engagement of Miss Anne I. Fuller, Branch Department, to Mr. Alvah G. Healey, of Chester, N. H.

Miss Annie T. Flynn, of the Bindery, retired April 30, after nineteen years of service.

The sympathy of *LIBRARY LIFE* is extended to Miss Anna L. Manning, of the Children's Room, in the loss of her father; to Miss Beatrice Coleman, of the Issue Department, in the loss of her father; to Mr. William Connell, of the Bindery, in the loss of his son, John; and to Mrs.

Benjamin S. Pouzzner (Bessie London), formerly of the Catalogue Department, in the loss of her husband.

Under date of April 20, Martin J. Lee and William F. A. Graham, counsellors at law, announce their association for the general practice of the law under the name of Lee and Graham, with offices at Suite 1023 Tremont Building, 73 Tremont Street, Boston, Mass. Telephone Haymarket 1148.

On Friday morning, May 7, the Library was visited by a distinguished group of women, about fifty in number, leaders of the Girl Scout movement in eighteen foreign countries. The party, after being introduced to the Director by Mrs. Barrett Wendell, was guided about the building by a number of heads of departments.

The biennial visit of members of the New York State Library School took place on Saturday, April 17. There were forty-nine students in the party, which was under the conduct of Mrs. Gertrude Porter Thorpe and Miss Isabella K. Rhodes, of the New York State Library. The eager interest of these alert students made their visit a real pleasure to the members of the Library Staff who met them.

On the evening of March 23 the Staff Club welcomed Mr. George A. Cowan, teacher of Science in the Jamaica Plain High School, who, with the aid of stereopticon views, proved a most delightful guide to Italy.

Dr. Arthur E. Bostwick, Librarian of the St. Louis Public Library, spent Monday, April 26, in Boston. He spoke at Simmons College in the morning, and in the afternoon told of "Recent Experiences of an American Librarian in China," at the Women's Republican Club, at a meeting to which interested persons had been invited by Mrs. Frederic Cunningham, Chairman of the committee which provided the funds for Dr. Bostwick's visit to China last year. In the evening Dr. Bostwick was the guest of the Special Libraries Association of Boston, and spoke briefly at its meeting in the armory of the Charlestown Navy Yard.

BRANCH NEWS

BRIGHTON: The Passion Play at Ober-Ammergau was shown in one hundred colored stereopticon views, by Dr. Henry Hallam Saunderson in the lecture room of the Brighton Branch Library, on Monday Evening, March 22, before an audience of more than a hundred.

Dr. Saunderson carried his hearers to that picturesque little Bavarian village where he saw the play enacted in 1910 and where he had the good fortune to be a guest of the noted Anton Lang who enacted the role of Christus.

CHARLESTOWN: Miss Cecelia Tint recently announced her engagement to Mr. Albert Hale, assistant manager of the Boston Mutual Life Insurance Company. No date for the wedding has yet been announced.

A club has been formed among the school girls of the seventh and eighth grades, which meets every Saturday morning under the direction of Mrs. Vining and Miss Emily Doherty. The aim of the club is to teach the girls the care of books, the use of the library and the appreciation of good literature.

CODMAN SQUARE has been feeling very proud of itself lately. Why shouldn't it, when the entire place is being renovated?

Though only two of our librarians are taking courses in Central this year everybody at the Branch profits, since the two students are only too eager to impart their newly-acquired knowledge.

HYDE PARK: Mrs. Parks and her efficient corps of workers will soon have a complete new shelf-list of the entire book collection. In addition to her work on this list Mrs. Parks manages to furnish copy for a full column of library news every week for the *Hyde Park Gazette*.

MT. BOWDOIN: The engagement has been announced of Miss Katherine F. McEttrick of Mt. Bowdoin Branch to Mr. George P. Maloney. The marriage is to take place in June.

SOUTH BOSTON: During Arbor and Bird week this branch displayed the Audubon charts, together with many other colored bird pictures. The chief attraction in the eyes of the children was a bird house borrowed from the Children's

Museum. On the tree which held it were perched two gayly colored, life-sized birds and bird books for circulation lay on a table beneath its boughs. The Governor's Proclamation and a story "The Bird House Boy," clipped from a current newspaper and mounted, were also included in the exhibit.

At the SOUTH END the story hour continues to draw an interested group despite the fine weather and the counter-attraction of the swings in the park. The annual trip to the Art Museum takes place in August—a Red Letter day on the calendar.

MORE TRUTH THAN POETRY

Smells of fish and ham and cabbage
At WARREN STREET our nostrils greet;
Damp-soaked floors rise up to meet us,
Falling ceilings quite unseat us.

When oft in the stilly night
Our assistants weep their plight,
Does a vision bright unfold
Whose joys and comforts us uphold?

Light and beauty, peace and cheer,
Rise up in glorious vision clear;
And as we leave the old for new
We wish such luck to all of you.

WEST END: On April 20 a delegation from the New York State Library School, and the next day twenty-two students from Simmons College Library School, visited this branch.

WEST ROXBURY: There hangs on the outside wall of the library near the main entrance a calendar of all the important dates for school, church and public welfare work.

BENEFIT ASSOCIATION

ANNUAL MEETING

The annual meeting of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association was held on Tuesday, April 6, 1926, in the Staff Class Room, Central Library, at 11 a.m.

After the reports of officers and of all committees had been read and accepted, a number of sections of the constitution were amended to read as follows:

Article VI, Section 1. *President.* (d)

With the approval of the Board of Directors, to fill by temporary appointment all vacancies, *either temporary or permanent*, in offices and committees.

Article VI, Section 4. *Treasurer.* (h)

On the occasion of the death of a member of the Association, to provide flowers (unless there is a request that flowers be omitted), at an expense to the Association not to exceed Five Dollars (\$5.00).

Article IX, Section 3. (b)

(Last sentence.) No member shall receive in any *consecutive twelve months* more than five weeks' benefit at the first rate, nor more than three weeks' benefit at the second rate.

Article IX, Section 3. (d)

(First sentence.) *Sick benefits shall be paid subject to the following conditions:* A member who is ill must notify the Secretary of the Association before the end of the second week of disability; a physician's certificate of illness must accompany the notification, or must be filed with the Secretary within the seven days next following *the end of the second week of disability.*

Article IX, Section 4. *Retirement.* (d)

A retired member who is restored to service in the Library, and who accepted option (1) above, may renew membership as provided in Article III, Section 5, after paying into the General Fund the sum paid to him under option (1) above.

(e) A retired member who is restored to service in the Library, and who accepted option (2) above, shall regain full membership in the Association.

Article XII, Section 3.

(First sentence.) Proposed amendments or additions to the Constitution or By-laws *shall be submitted to the Board of Directors; the draft shall be submitted at least three weeks before the meeting at which the amendments or additions are to be presented for action; the draft shall specify the date of the meeting and must be signed by ten or more members.*

The officers elected for the year 1926-27 were:—

President—James S. Kennedy, Shelf Dept.
Vice-President—Frank H. Chase, Reference Librarian.
Secretary—James P. J. Gannon, Bindery.
Financial Secretary—Morris J. Rosenberg, Statistical Dept.
Treasurer—Frank C. Blaisdell, Issue Dept.
Board of Directors (Term of 4 years):
William C. Maiers, Jr., Ordering Dept.

Relief Committee:

Joseph A. Crowley, Patent Room.
Marion A. McCarthy, Branch Dept.
William F. O'Hara, Ordering Dept.
Garrett J. Lacey, Engineers' Dept.
Miss Beatrice Coleman, Issue Dept., was appointed by President Kennedy to complete the committee of five members.

Welfare Committee:

George H. Connor, Shelf Dept.
Agnes C. Doyle, Reference Dept.
John J. Griffin, Engineers' Dept.
William A. McGowan, Shelf Dept.
Margaret A. Sheridan, South End Branch.

25TH ANNIVERSARY COMMITTEE

The following committee has been appointed to make arrangements for the celebration of the 25th anniversary of the founding of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association:

Frank C. Blaisdell	James J. Kelley
Pierce E. Buckley	James S. Kennedy
Frank H. Chase	James W. Kenney
M. Florence Cufflin	William C. Maiers, Jr.
Della J. Deery	Marion A. McCarthy
Robert F. Dixon	James P. Mooers
James P. J. Gannon	Morris J. Rosenberg
Emil L. Hoffman	

SICK LIST

We welcome the return of those associates who since the last issue of LIBRARY LIFE temporarily succumbed to seasonal or unseasonable ailments.

Miss Katharine Collins, of the Bindery Dept., is still incapacitated by a rheumatic condition and has our sympathy in her painful hours. It is good to see Mr. Nils Herland, Janitor's Dept., with us again after his long illness.

CALENDAR

- Apr. 4. Folk Songs of Europe. Catherine S. Swett, assisted by members of the University Double Quartet and the Radcliffe Choral Society.
- Apr. 6. Annual meeting of the Boston Public Library Employees' Benefit Association.
- Apr. 8. England in Art and Story. Mrs. James Frederick Hopkins.
- Apr. 11. Aunt Clarissa lends her heirlooms of two centuries. Mrs. M. Gertrude Cutter.
- Apr. 12. The educational value of the Library. Henry A. Higgins.
- Ruskin: A French critic's view. Melvin B. Webber.
- Apr. 26. Author's reading. Henry H. Sanderson.
- Apr. 29. Staff Club: Dramatics.
- May 10. Ruskin Club. Annual meeting.
- May 26. Staff Club. Annual outdoor meeting.

BOSTON PUBLIC LIBRARY



3 9999 06239 008 1

MAY 19 1920

